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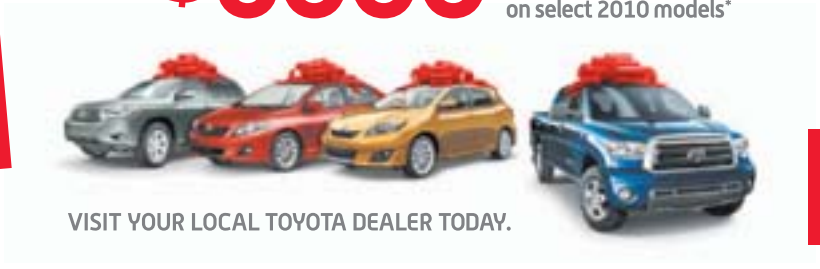

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BEST SLOPES IN AMERICA
METRO COUNTS DOWN THE TOP 5 {page 19}

PREGNANT?
AGUILERA CAN'T ESCAPE SCRUTINY {page 18}

VANCOUVER
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Wednesday, December 8, 2010
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News worth sharing.

Anchors away for Good, Martin

▶ Decision to step aside was their own, pair says ▶ They have not been told who their replacements will be ▶ Good will focus on his radio show ▶ Martin says she's leaving CTV, but 'by no means' retiring ▶ CTV will announce the new anchor at 10 a.m. today ▶ The final broadcast will include a retrospective

CTV

▶ Bill Good and Pamela Martin at CTV studios in Vancouver.

After 17 years of balancing two full-time jobs, 65-year-old veteran broadcaster Bill Good joked he's at the point in his career where maybe one full-time job is enough.

Good and Pamela Martin are stepping down as co-anchors of CTV's 6 p.m. newscast, a position the pair have shared since 2001.

Martin, who has worked in Vancouver as a reporter and anchor for 35 years, said she agonized with the decision since the end of the Olympics. She conceded the departure is probably the "end of an era" in local broadcasting. Their final show will be in late December.

"It'll be an emotional time," said Good. "It's always tough leaving what you love."

JEFF HODSON

Local

Watts rated among the best

▶ Surrey mayor deemed the fourth-best civic leader in the world ▶ European think-tank praises Watts for cleaning up her city {page 3}

Bake a better fruitcake

Christmas confection doesn't have to be a punchline {page 23}

China tries to spoil the party

Other nations being pressured to avoid Nobel ceremony {page 8}

Clark eyeing Liberal crown

Candidacy announcement expected today {page 6}

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▶ Surrey Mayor Dianne Watts

A global honour for Surrey mayor

Dianne Watts beats out mayors of Brisbane, Caracas to earn number 4 spot in global top 10 ▶ International group has assembled lists of top mayors since 2004 ▶ List compiled by experts after reviewing thousands of citizen endorsements from around the world

J.J. MCCULLOUGH
VANCOUVER@METRONEWS.CA

A European think-tank has named Surrey Mayor Dianne Watts as the planet's fourth-best civic leader, applauding her efforts to clean up what has historically been one of British Columbia's more troubled communities.

Praising what it described as "her wide-ranging raft of initiatives," the U.K.-based City Mayors Foundation complimented Watts's efforts to combat the effects of the worldwide recession, and noted her role in helping transform Surrey from a Lower Mainland city with a reputation as a "'run-down, drug-infested place' into a community that now attracts new residents and business."

"It certainly is quite an honour to be recognized with the mayors from around the world and particularly the mayor that won," said Watts, referring to the foundation's top mayor, Mexico City's Marcelo Ebrard, who has earned international attention for his progressive stances on climate change and gay marriage.

"I have to say, though, that this just isn't just about me," she added.

"It's about the people I work with and a collective effort on behalf of the city."

Praise is not new to Watts, who routinely tops lists of British Columbia's most popular politicians, and has been repeatedly courted by offers of higher political office.

Yet the mayor insists that it's precisely her marked lack of partisan ambition that helps explain her success.

"I'm not a political person and I don't play politics," she said.

"I think it's important to do the right thing, as opposed to something that's popular or something that moves you ahead politically."

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1 news

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Tenth wife of B.C. polygamist leader describes her experiences in Bountiful. Video at metronews.ca.

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Break the ice by learning new greetings

- Greeting Fluency takes place at noon tomorrow in CBC's audience lounge at 700 Hamilton St.
- The $10 entry fee includes luncheon

SARAH N. FITZGERALD
VANCOUVER@METRONEWS.CA

Have you ever wondered how to greet somebody in Cantonese, Punjabi or Tagalog?

Here's your chance. Former mayor Sam Sullivan is inviting Vancouverites to Greeting Fluency — a cultural luncheon event that focuses on learning seven important phrases in the languages of some of their neighbours.

"There are so many new things to learn from acquainting oneself with new languages," said Sullivan.

"You gain new insight into a culture, new friends, immediate welcome by members of different cultures — and there's an old saying: 'Learn a new language, gain a new soul.' So (you're able to) enhance your own internal life."

The event is aimed not at teaching people new languages but at endowing them with "greeting fluency" so they're able to cross language barriers.

Visit globalcivic.org for info.

"It's just a matter of memorizing a few sounds, (because) even if they're not well said, articulated or pronounced, they still go a long way."
SAM SULLIVAN

Cyclists. A lane of their own

▶ A cyclist makes use of the new separated bicycle lane on Hornby Street yesterday.

KYLE FARQUHARSON/FOR METRO

Drivers warm up to new bike lanes

"The bike lanes have been contentious, but so far they've been successful, and traffic patterns have adapted to them," said Vancouver Mayor Gregor Robertson, adding that the new routes are designed to make life safer for cyclists. The city did not have an official opening for the Hornby bike lane planned as of yesterday.

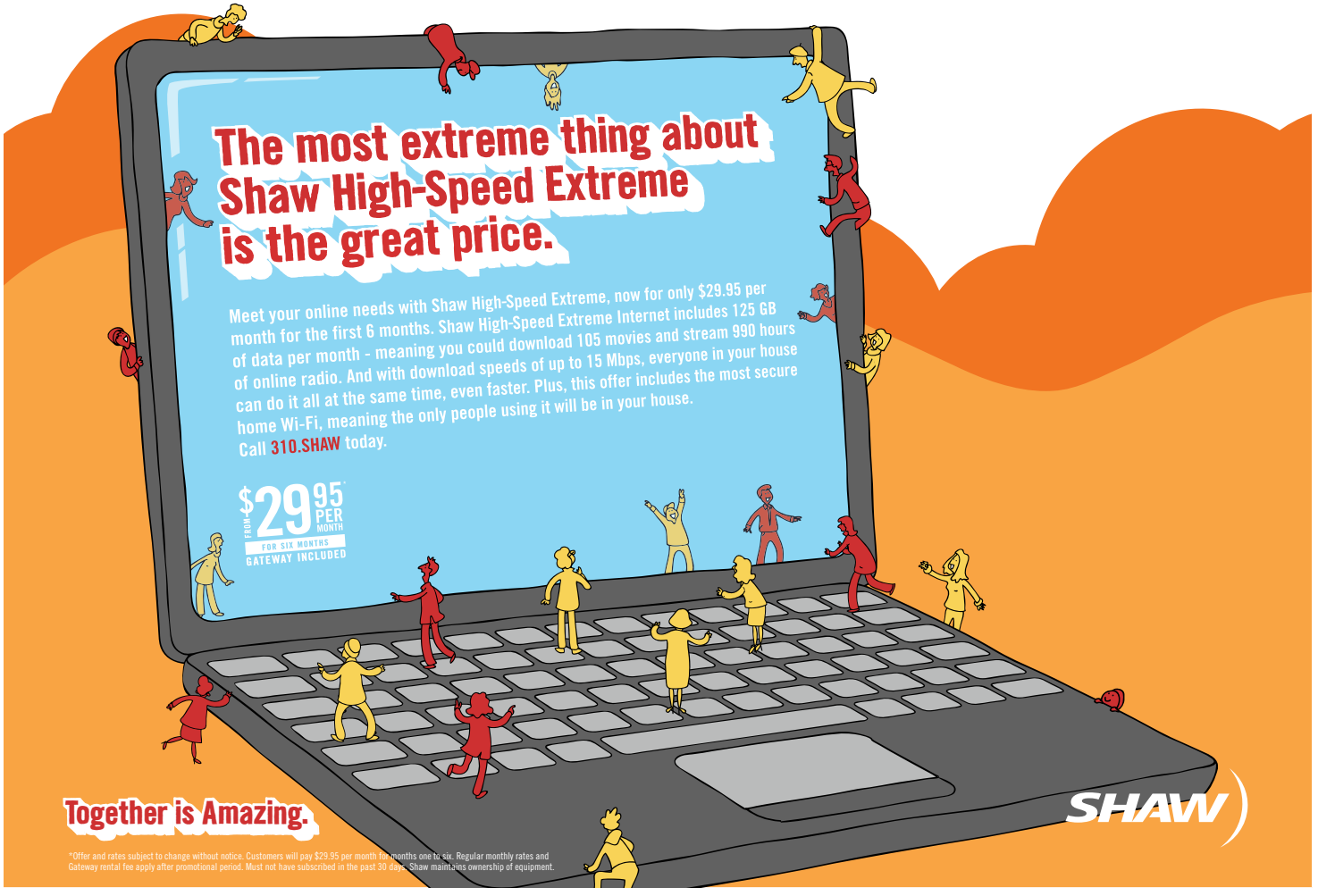
Cop charged in relation to videotaped shove

A Vancouver police officer has been charged with assault for allegedly pushing a woman with cerebral palsy to the ground in the Downtown Eastside in June.

Charges were laid yesterday against Const. Taylor Robinson. The charge follows a three-month investigation into the incident by New Westminster police after the victim filed a complaint.

A security video, showing Robinson pushing the resident to the ground without apparent reason, was made public in July.

KIMIYA SHOKOOHI



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VPD joins Twitter with busy day

The Vancouver Police Department is about to embark on a new Internet journey: Joining the vast online Twitter community.

Starting tomorrow morning at 8 a.m., Const. Anne Longley will be logging onto site as @VancouverPD, and for the first 24-hours, she'll be tweeting out every call the VPD receives, from parking complaints to in-progress crimes.

"This offers people a way to experience a day in the life of a VPD officer," said Longley, adding that the most important aspect of joining Twitter is the access to important information.

SARAH N. FITZGERALD

Clark expected to enter race

CKNW personality last served as Liberal MLA in 2005

J.J. MCCULLOUGH
VANCOUVER@METRONEWS.CA

Ending a half-decade political hiatus, former deputy premier and one-time mayoral candidate Christy Clark is expected to announce her candidacy for the leadership of the B.C. Liberal Party this morning.

The former Coquitlam MLA and current CKNW personality remained coy about her political ambitions following Premier Gordon Campbell's November resignation, but is now anticipated to formally declare herself interested in seeking her old boss' job.

While a self-described political moderate, Clark is seen as being a leading voice for the Liberal party's more left-leaning wing.

FACEBOOK.COM

Christy Clark

News in brief

VPD won't act on WikiLeaks remark

COMPLAINT. Declaring the matter outside of their jurisdiction, Vancouver police will not press charges against a former prime ministerial adviser whom a local activist has accused of "inciting murder" against Wikileaks editor Julian Assange.

Gail Davidson, a left-wing activist who has previously tried to bring war crimes charges against George W. Bush, filed a claim with VPD Saturday after longtime Harper adviser Tom Flanagan claimed on a CBC talk show that Assange "should be assassinated," in what he later claimed was a "a thoughtless, glib remark."

J.J. MCCULLOUGH

Northern oil ban motion passed

OTTAWA. A federal opposition motion to ban oil tankers from the North Coast of B.C. passed yesterday in the House of Commons. The bill is non-binding. The vote came the same day that Canada's auditor general released a report stating that the country is not prepared to deal with an oil spill.

KIMIYA SHOKOOHI

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After the 90 days, interest (if any) starts to accrue and the purchaser will repay the principal and interest (if any) monthly over the term of the contract but not until 120 days after the contract date. †0% financing for up to 36 months available on 2011 Sentra/Versa Hatch/Altima (excluding Hybrid)/Rogue/Xterra/Pathfinder/Armada/Frontier/Titan models. Representative finance example based on Selling Price of $15,879 for 2011 Versa 1.8 S (B5LG51 AA00) financed at 0% APR for 36 months equals $302.19 per month with $5,000 down payment or equivalent trade-in. Cost of borrowing is $0 for a total obligation of $15,879. Freight and PDE charges ($1,385), air-conditioning tax ($100) and certain fees where applicable (ON: $5 OMVIC fee and $29 tire stewardship fee, AB: $20 tire recycling tax) are included. License, registration, insurance, duties and applicable taxes (including excise tax and fuel conservation tax) are extra. Finance offers are available on approved credit through Nissan Canada Finance for a limited time, may change without notice. Retailers are free to set individual prices. Retailers may sell for less. Offers valid between December 1st,2010 and January 3rd, 2011. Limited time offers on approved credit through Nissan Canada Finance are subject to change without notice. Retailers are free to set individual prices. ‡Holiday Bonus is based on stackable trading dollars. Applicable on 2011 models. ΩΩ$8,500 in Factory Reductions and Discounts. $5,000 Factory Reduction and $1,500 Holiday Bonus is based stackable trading dollars and varies by model. Additional Conquest/Loyalty Discounts of $2,000 apply to current Nissan owners and current pick up truck owners only. Current Nissan or Conquest vehicle must be 2000MY (Model Year) or newer and must be licensed and insured in Canada for the consecutive six month period immediately prior to the purchase or lease of a new or demo 2011 Nissan Titan. Conquest vehicle can be any competitive (non-Nissan) pickup truck. ^Pickup^ is defined as a light truck having an enclosed cab and an open body with low sides and tailgate. Trade-in of the competitive product is not required. Conquest/Loyalty dollars are transferrable to an immediate family member provided that the family member is living at the same address as the Current Owner. Conquest/Loyalty dollars are additional to all other incentives offered by Nissan Canada. Price reduction is reflected on the selling price shown. See retailer for details. $14,348 MSRP for a new 2011 Versa Hatchback 1.8 S (B5LG51 AA00), manual transmission/$23,998 MSRP for a new 2011 Altima Sedan 2.5 S (1HRG51 AA00), CVT transmission. Freight and PDE charges ($1,397/$1,530), air-conditioning tax ($100) and certain fees where applicable (ON: $5 OMVIC fee and $29 tire stewardship fee, AB: $20 tire recycling tax) are included. License, registration, insurance, duties and applicable taxes (including excise tax and fuel conservation tax) are extra. Finance offers are available on approved credit through Nissan Canada Finance for a limited time, may change without notice. Retailers are free to set individual prices. Retailers may sell for less. Offers valid between December 1st,2010 and January 3rd, 2011. Limited time offers on approved credit through Nissan Canada Finance are subject to change without notice. Retailers are free to set individual prices. ▲Models shown: $50,548 MSRP for a new 2011 Titan CC SL 4X4 (3CFG71 AA00), automatic transmission/$18,848 MSRP for a new 2011 Versa Hatch 1.8 SL (B5RG11 AE00), automatic transmission/$32,098 MSRP for a new 2011 Altima Sedan 3.5 SR (1T4G11 AA00), CVT transmission. Freight and PDE charges ($1,570/$1,397/$1,530), air-conditioning tax ($100) and certain fees where applicable (ON: $5 OMVIC fee and $29 tire stewardship fee, AB: $20 tire recycling tax), license, insurance, registration, and other applicable taxes (including excise taxes and fuel conservation tax, where applicable) are extra. Dealer order/trade may be necessary. Offer is for a limited time, may change without notice. All prices are subject to change without notice. Retailer may sell for less. ▲▲Actual mileage may vary with driving conditions - uses for comparison only. ™The Bluetooth word mark and logos are owned by Bluetooth SIG, Inc., and any use of such marks by Nissan is under licence. ¹Government star ratings are part of the U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) New Car Assessment Program (www.safercar.gov). U.S. model tested. Please see www.safercar.gov for up to date information. ²The 2011 Versa is winner of a Consumers Digest Best Buy Award. 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China accused of sabotaging Nobel's big day

Nearly 20 countries to stay away from Friday Peace Prize ceremony ▶ Clear signal of pressure, officials say

At least 19 countries will not attend this year's Nobel Peace Prize ceremony honouring jailed Chinese dissident Liu Xiaobo, officials confirmed yesterday.

It was the clearest signal yet that the Chinese government, furious at international recognition for its No. 1 jailed dissident, is hard at work trying to sabotage Friday's ceremony.

The Nobel committee is honouring Liu as China's "foremost symbol" of human rights.

The Chinese government, however, calls him "a criminal" for trying to promote democracy in China.

Nobel secretary Geir Lundestad said in a telephone interview that he could not recall a higher number of countries "unable to attend" during his 20 years at the Nobel Foundation — saying it might be "the highest" number ever.

He said not all 19 on the absentee list could be directly attributable to Chinese pressure.

Lundestad stressed that nothing would put a damper on the Oslo festivities — even the fact that neither Liu Xiaobo, nor wife Liu Xia, nor any family member would be allowed by the Chinese government to attend.

Liu is serving an 11-year term for allegedly trying to overthrow the state, his wife has been placed under a form of house arrest in Beijing.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

KIN CHEUNG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Protesters hold boxes containing greeting cards for Liu Xiaobo.

Passed on. An inspiring life

▶ Elizabeth Edwards "knew tragedy and pain," U.S. President Barack Obama said last night. She died yesterday at age 61.

MATT SAYLES/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A passionate advocate

Elizabeth Edwards, who closely advised her husband, John, in two bids for the U.S. presidency and advocated for health care even as her marriage publicly crumbled, died yesterday after a six-year struggle with cancer. "She remains the heart of this family," her relatives said in a statement.

Disgraced ex-coach to get bail in sex case

A judge says he will grant bail to disgraced former junior hockey coach Graham James, who faces new sex charges in Winnipeg.

Final conditions for his release won't be set until next week and he is to remain in jail until then.

James faces nine charges stemming from alleged encounters involving three boys, one of them Theo Fleury, who became a National Hockey League star.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

3

James, 58, served more than a year in jail in the late 1990s for assaulting three young hockey players, including NHLer Sheldon Kennedy. James was pardoned and moved to Mexico. But he returned to face the new charges.

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22088_Set4-Ver1 YVR v2

Economist weighs in on polygamy laws

Admits under cross-examination that there's no proof legalization will increase polygamy in Canada

Women are treated like commodities in polygamous societies and their economic freedoms are reduced.

That's the opinion of economist Shoshana Grossbard who testified at B.C. Supreme Court yesterday in a case to determine whether the country's polygamy laws are constitutional.

Grossbard, who has studied the economic effects of polygamy in other countries, testified that there will be increased disparity between husbands and wives if Canada were to legalize polygamy.

"In the cultures and societies worldwide that have embraced it, polygamy is associated with undesirable economic, societal, physical and emotional factors related to women's well-being," Grossbard said yesterday.

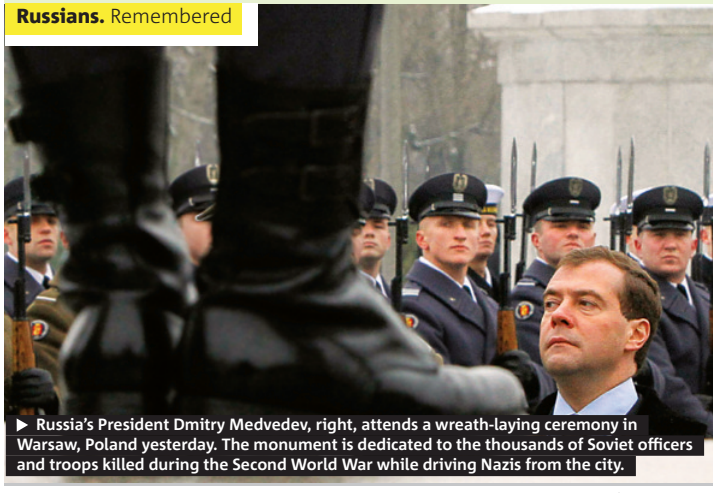
50 The attorney generals for B.C. and Canada are in court arguing that the 50-year-old polygamy law in the country is constitutionally valid.

The natural economic consequence of polygamy should be increased market value for women, since multiple wives are highly desirable. But in these societies, husbands can simply divorce the wives they don't want, so women don't actually have control over their value.

Grossbard was a witness for the Christian Legal Fellowship, an organization that has legal standing in the reference case that has involved nearly a dozen intervenors and organizations.

There are nearly 800 believers of the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints living in the interior of B.C. in two separate factions under two feuding leaders, Winston Blackmore and James Oler. Among them, the two men have dozens of wives and dozens of children. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Russians. Remembered



▶ Russia's President Dmitry Medvedev, right, attends a wreath-laying ceremony in Warsaw, Poland yesterday. The monument is dedicated to the thousands of Soviet officers and troops killed during the Second World War while driving Nazis from the city.

CZAREK SOKOLOWSKI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Soldiers honoured in Warsaw

SAN FRANCISCO

FBI watch Barbies

The FBI has issued a cyber crime alert on a new Barbie doll that comes with a hidden video camera.

Mattel's Barbie Video Girl has a video camera lens in its necklace that can record up to 30 minutes of footage to be downloaded on a computer.

Officials warn that it could possibly be used to produce child porn, but say they don't have any reported crimes.

The FBI's Sacramento office issued a report with the warning on the doll last month.

FBI spokesman Steve Dupre says the alert was meant for law enforcement agencies advising them not to overlook the doll during any searches. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cholera in Haiti

A contingent of UN peacekeepers is the likely source of a cholera outbreak in Haiti that has killed at least 2,000 people, a French scientist said in a report obtained yesterday by The Associated Press. The scientist concluded the cholera originated next to a UN base. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Economy still needs stimulus: Bank of Canada

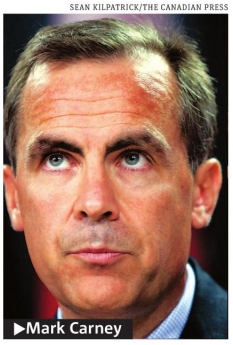
Central bank expected second half of 2010 to be weaker than first, but nothing like what has occurred

Canada's economy is taking a battering from the high dollar combined with low productivity and still needs the stimulus of low interest rates, the Bank of Canada says.

In a previously telegraphed move, the central bank announced yesterday it will keep its trend-setting interest rate at one per cent until next year — and likely much longer. But analysts focused on the accompanying statement from governor Mark Carney, which conceded that both the Canadian and global recoveries are struggling under stiffening headwinds of risk, as a signal of future intentions.

"The global economic recovery is proceeding largely as expected, although risks have increased," the statement said, citing renewed concerns that European debt woes will spill into global financial markets.

SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS



▶Mark Carney

The bank said demand in the U.S., Canada's largest export market, remains weak, and even generally robust emerging markets such as China and India are seeing a deceleration of economic activity.

"The recovery in Canada, in the second half of 2010, appears slightly weaker than the bank projected" largely as a result of falling exports, it added.

"This underlines a previously identified risk that a combination of disappointing productivity performance and persistent strength in the Canadian dollar could dampen the expected recovery of net exports."

Statistics Canada reported two weeks ago that the third-quarter current account deficit had hit a record $17.5 billion, with net trade slicing 3.5 percentage points off gross domestic product growth. The strong currency contributes to the deficit in two ways — by making Canadian exports more expensive in foreign markets, and foreign imports less expensive for Canadians.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Google VP Sundar Pichai demonstrates the new Chrome operating system yesterday in San Francisco.

MARCIO JOSE SANCHEZ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market debut delayed

Google is delaying the market debut of the first computers running on its highly anticipated Chrome operating system while its engineers continue to fine-tune the software.

Canada's five biggest banks keep steady

Canada's five biggest banks earned a combined $4.45 billion profit in the fourth quarter — marginally higher than in the same period last year — as weakness in corporate financing and trading revenues outshone strength in consumer banking.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market moment

TSX	Dollar
– 25.34 (13,250.67)	– 0.60¢ (98.87¢ US)
Oil	**Natural gas million Btu**
– 69¢ US ($88.69 US)	$4.393 (– 9.5¢)
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News worth sharing.

EVERYONE IS BLAMING THE MESSENGER

Just sayin'

PAUL SULLIVAN

Julian Assange, first martyr of the Internet?

It certainly looks that way. The founder of WikiLeaks, the man who embarrassed heads of state around the world by leaking thousands of messages written by U.S. diplomats, has been arrested and is cooling his heels in a London jail without bail, waiting to find out if he will be extradited for having sex in Sweden.

Yep, you read that right. The more you read about the alleged sexual molestation case against the 39-year-old Aussie, the more you have to wonder if he's being set up for tattling on the world.

Accounts in Newsweek, the Daily Mail, AOL News, etc., make it clear he's not being held on rape charges, but something called "sex by surprise," and one of the women allegedly surprised by sex bought breakfast after the alleged surprise.

In Sweden, where casual sex is a sacred institution, second only to Ikea.

Meanwhile, my counterparts in the media, champions of freedom of expression all, are joining the mob to lynch Assange for spilling U.S. diplomatic secrets. It's his fault the nations of the world are engaging in skullduggery that can't bear the light of day.

> **"... the more you have to wonder if he's being set up for tattling on the world."**

Everyone forgets that the Internet changes everything. They forget the original leak came from a disgruntled "intelligence" officer, who was able to steal all this confidential information by downloading it. No need to sneak around like Maxwell Smart with cameras shaped like cigarette lighters.

Pte. 1st Class Bradley Manning, 23, was allegedly engaging in the kind of cyber-leaking characteristic of the Internet generation. If it's digital, no secret is safe. U.S. diplomats, a bunch of geezers lulled by a completely unjustified sense of false security, felt free to send each other sizzling secrets via email. And now they're blaming Julian Assange. Manning could have just as easily leaked the information to SmokingGun.com, for example, and we could be running after those guys with torches and pitchforks.

Assange, a relatively old geek at 39, gets the new Borg Mind. Resistance is futile. WikiLeaks has distributed the Mother of All Secret Files to 100,000 co-conspirators in cyberspace, and if he goes down, he sends them all an encryption key, and that's it for secrets.

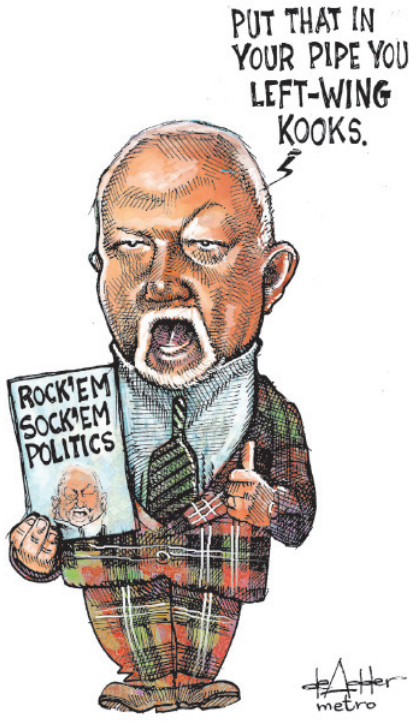
I don't know what's going to happen. I do know we're finally going to learn that privacy is an analog thing. I don't know if that's good or bad, but if you believe that those who hold the secrets hold the power, maybe you should hold a candlelight vigil for Julian Assange.

He's going to need it.

Read more of Paul Sullivan's columns at metronews.ca/justsaying

Cartoon

MICHAEL DE ADDER



Collector nets nest egg

Worth mentioning

19th-century masterpiece

MATT DUNHAM/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

To some it's just a bunch of bird pictures. To others, John James Audubon's Birds Of America is a rare blend of art, natural history and craftsmanship, unique enough to sell for more than $10 million US at a London auction yesterday — making it the world's most expensive printed book.

Some of the world's wealthiest book collectors had been anticipating the auction for months: It represents a chance to own one of the best preserved editions of Audubon's 19th-century masterpiece, with its 435 hand-coloured illustrations.

The book sold for $10,270,000 at a Sotheby's auction to an anonymous collector bidding by telephone, the auction house said.

While the Audubon volume holds the record for a printed book, a 72-page notebook of Leonardo da Vinci's handwritten notes and illustrations went for even more. Known as the Leicester Codex, the collection was bought by Bill Gates in 1994 for $31 million.

Each individual picture in Birds Of America is so valuable there have been some fears the volume could be broken up and sold as 435 separate works of art. Experts believe that unlikely: The tome is probably more valuable intact. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Real or artificial Christmas tree? Why?

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Metro Minute at parade of lights

Add watching beautifully decorated boats in Burrard Inlet to your holiday plans. Carol Ships Parade of Lights, which is in its 50th year, runs until Dec 23. It originated with one boat decorated with Christmas lights off Coal Harbour. At its peak, the parade grew to more than 50 decorated boats with more than 100,000 lights. The ships will sail from West Vancouver today, passing the Lions Gate Bridge at 7:20 p.m., and will sail through Ambleside, Dundarave and Caulfield before heading back to Coal Habour at 9:30 p.m. More than 30,000 people will ride the ships during the 20-day festival. For more information, visit carolships.org.

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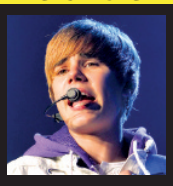
2 scene

News in brief



Canuck pop star Justin Bieber will soon be a collectible.

The 16-year-old Stratford, Ont., native is getting his own line of trading cards from Panini America.

Bieber, who also has a line of dolls, will be featured in 150 unique cards and 30 stickers when the trading card set launches this week.

The set will also have 500 randomly inserted authentic Bieber autograph cards, along with nine-card puzzles that create mini Bieber posters.

Bieber earned two Grammy Award nods when nominations were announced last week, including best new artist.

Each pack will include five Bieber cards and one sticker and will retail for US$1.99.

"I always dreamed of being a hockey player and having my own trading card," Bieber said in a release. "I remember collecting hockey cards, so the idea that kids are going to enjoy my cards like I enjoyed my hockey cards is amazing!"

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ScanLife

Ex-Sunshine Band member sentenced to 7 years for sex charges involving teens

▶ Johnny Depp and Angelina Jolie star in The Tourist, which opens on Friday.

Jolie gets in touch with her femininity

Actress gets to show off her elegant side in The Tourist ▶ Filming in Paris and Venice helped sway her decision to pick the movie

NED EHRBAR
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA
METRO WORLD NEWS IN LOS ANGELES

For a successful actor, a lot of different factors go into choosing a project, but when it initially came to signing on for The Tourist, Angelina Jolie had one thing on her mind.

"I had questioned if there was anything out there that shot in a great location. Honestly, that was the phone call I made," she says with a laugh. "And I got this call that there was this film that happened to shoot in Venice and Paris and it was a real lady, so I was interested."

The film features Jolie, as the estranged girlfriend of a wanted felon, as she leads Johnny Depp's out-of-his-depths American tourist into an international game of cat and mouse, with cops from several nations and a handful of gangsters on the trail. But while there's plenty of action and gunplay, Jolie's character doesn't really get her hands dirty.

"It took me a while to get the heels and the gloves and the whole how to hold the handbag," she says of her über-elegant character. "I think everybody knows I'm not necessarily that female in that way. So it was a little bit of an exercise to get in there."

While working with co-writer and director Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck, Jolie found the hardest part of nailing the character was learning to take it easy.

"My note that I got every day was slow down," she says. "Because as very modern woman, we attack things, we're aggressive, we move through. We're like New Yorkers, you know? So this is the hardest thing for me, to kind of take a deep breath and just glide a little more. It took me a really long time."

Big family

Alone time. In the five years since Angelina Jolie met partner Brad Pitt, the actress has gone from a single mother with one child (adopted son Maddox) to a mother of six. So when does she find time for herself? "You just give it up at a certain point," she says with a laugh. "Even trying to take a bath, everybody comes in. You just give it up. And it's OK. But I try, when everybody goes to bed you try to have it, but no."

Bettany brings Scotland Yard back to the forefront

Playing a cop in a movie where the criminals are the main characters — and have all the fun — can get to a guy, but British actor Paul Bettany didn't let that stop him from chasing Angelina Jolie and Johnny Depp around Paris and Venice as an obsessed Scotland Yard detective in The Tourist. Metro caught up with Bettany in Paris to talk about representing Scotland Yard and how he picks his roles

It's nice to see Scotland Yard get a mention in a movie again.

Right. It's still there. I guess because I grew up in England, and Scotland Yard was a news item, it wasn't Sherlock Holmes for me, do you know what I mean?

For me it doesn't hold the same romance as it probably will for my children, who are growing up in New York City.

▶ Paul Bettany

Do you have a preference in playing good guys or bad guys?

No, I don't. I love doing as many different things as I can. And maybe that is a drawback in today's age of acting. It's a peculiar thing. The only plan I've ever had — which is probably stupid of me — is to do as many different things, to play as many different types of people and types of characters as I can.

That sounds smart, actually.

Perhaps it's not. I mean, it's worked really well for Johnny Depp, but he's an anomaly, in that he's so — he's like a character actor who happens to be in a leading man position. You know, I mean, he plays characters, and it's what thrills him, clearly, about acting.

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▶ Actress Olivia Wilde, director Joseph Kosinski and actor Jeff Bridges from TRON: Legacy.

Keeping up with the times key for TRON

STEVE GOW
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

As if making your first movie wasn't daunting enough, Joseph Kosinski took on the added challenge of trying to satisfy millions of fanboys when he agreed to direct the highly-anticipated TRON: Legacy.

"The original TRON was a completely unique vision; it looked like nothing else out there," said Kosinski behind his film's hit 1982 sci-fi predecessor. "It pushed boundaries in terms of technology in a way that hadn't been done before and I just think conceptually it was 10 years ahead of its time."

The tale of a son rescuing his computer-genius father (Jeff Bridges) two decades after he disappears into the digital game world he designed not only allowed the award-winning commercial director to explore an original vision, but it gave Kosinski the unique opportunity to work on the absolute latest technologies in moviemaking.

"The biggest challenge on this movie is what it is on any movie regardless of size — it's creating a compelling script."
JOSEPH KOSINSKI, DIRECTOR

"Our production was pretty adaptive and we were always keeping up, changing methodologies in the visual effects," said Kosinski. "You can't really change the script or the story but in terms of your technique and technology, you have to just be mobile because it's a three-year project and things change."

That technological mobility gives TRON: Legacy an incredibly modern 3-D look, which complements the film's subject matter.

Narnia's latest hits the water

- Voyage of the Dawn Treader the third in the Narnia franchise
- Filming on the water was a big obstacle for director Michael Apted

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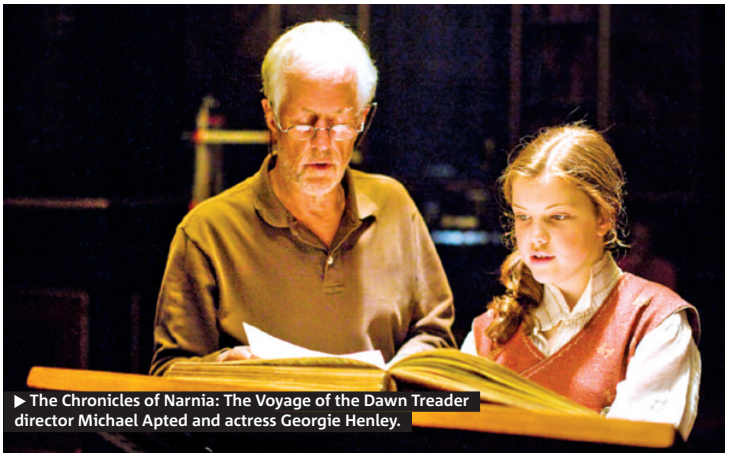

▶ The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader director Michael Apted and actress Georgie Henley.

A big budget, a huge cast and crew and using 3-D for the first time are huge obstacles for any director to overcome, but nature trumped it all for Michael Apted, the director of The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader.

The third installment of the fantasy franchise hits theatres on Friday.

The biggest challenge was making a movie largely set on the sea, Apted said.

"I thought, How are we going to make a movie on water? I took some advice from some colleagues who said, 'Never make a movie on water', so once we'd resolved that it became more manageable," joked Apted, at a press conference at London's Dorchester Hotel, when asked about a scene where the children meet Aslan in front of a huge tidal wave.

"It's such fast-moving technology. I don't think we could have done the wave scene even 18 months ago. The technology for doing water has changed enormously."

Apted shot the boat on land by the side of the sea, so he had about 100 per cent horizon. It was placed on a gimbal so that it moved up and down and sideways, but the sea was created by computer effects.

"It's a million miles away from Bond," said Apted, who was at the helm of James Bond's The World Is Not Enough. "Where you're supposed to think he really can do it, you don't really go into the world of surrealism — at least not until after the one after I did, things went a bit haywire after that, because I wasn't there."

The film is 3-D, largely to create depth than to allow objects to jump out at you. The CGI was created in 3-D and the filming was done in 2-D then converted.

"It was curious to me, that when we were starting converting, we took a lot of heat from colleagues like James Cameron saying that we would debase the coinage (value) by not shooting it in 3-D, but then I found out that he was converting Titanic into 3-D. Then I learnt that George Lucas, our great mentor, is converting all the Star Wars films into 3-D, so that tells me something, that maybe it is here to stay."

Sweating the details

- Fitness queen Jane Fonda looks to bring a show to prime-time TV

Jane Fonda has something she'd like to work out: A television series.

"I have a sort of a vision of what it could be and that's all that I'll say," Fonda said in an interview last week. "I think the best, edgiest writing is now on cable television. It's pretty exciting."

While the Oscar-winner hasn't officially signed up for a TV show, she can be seen in new workout DVDs designed specifically for baby boomers.

"People who are of a certain age tend to be ignored by the fitness industry and being that I'm older and I've done a lot of research on what happens to a body when it gets older, I know that it's essential that we stay active," Fonda said.

"I'm on this crusade to get older people out of the chairs, off their couches, moving in a way that's safe, easy and very doable."
JANE FONDA

The 72-year-old recently released Jane Fonda: Prime Time Walkout and Jane Fonda: Prime Time Fit & Strong. She says too many older people dismiss working out, and that needs to change.

"It's the worst thing that a person could do when they're older is to say, 'Why bother now? I'm older. I don't need to,'" Fonda said. "I'm on this crusade to get older people out of the chairs, off their couches, moving in a way that's safe, easy and very doable even if they've never done it a day in their lives. It's never too late."

Fonda says she's also writing a book about aging called Prime Time: Creating a Great Third Act. It is due out next year.

"It was the research that I did while writing my book on the aging body that motivated me to get back into the fitness industry again," Fonda said, who hasn't released a workout video since 1995.

She recently finished filming two movies and will take her Tony-nominated performance in the Broadway play "33 Variations" to a Los Angeles theatre next year. Fonda said as she gets older, life gets easier.

"You get a little wiser as you get older. You've been there, done that. You know it's not gonna kill you. You've survived it before. You tend to make lemonade out of lemons instead of mountains out of mole hills," she said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DAN STEINBERG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Jane Fonda

Seeking salvation from vampire era

Queen of the blood sucking genre moving on with her Seraphim series ▶ Rice enjoying vampire flicks

NATASHA LEVINGER
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

FILE PHOTO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Anne Rice's latest novel Love and Evil is on shelves now.

Anne Rice has been very open about consecrating her writing to God (the Interview with the Vampire author very famously rejoined the Catholic church in 1998 and then just-as-famously renounced her dedication to organized religion this year).

But if Rice had to do it over, she might have kept a bit more quiet about it all.

"I think it can be very off-putting to readers to read that you consecrated your writing to God. It can give them the wrong idea." Rice says,

"I'm absolutely committed to writing what reflects my own beliefs and my own world view. But I'm not sure I would tell anybody if I had to do it over because I think it stood between me and my readers."

Rice's new book, Love and Evil, out now in the U.S., is the second novel in Rice's Songs of the Seraphim series, which follows an ex-assassin named Toby on his quest for salvation. And although Love and Evil is written in Rice's typical engrossing style — and comes complete with a nail-biter of an ending — she might leave her leagues of dedicated fans waiting a bit to learn more about Toby's fate.

"I can see the third book pretty clearly but I'm not going to write it right now. I need a little time to think about Toby's options and how he's going to respond to that cliffhanger," she says.

In the meantime, the queen of modern vampire fiction says she's working on a book about the ancient mythical city of Atlantis.

"It's a book about immortals that have been on this planet since ancient Atlantis. It's really thrilling to be writing about immortals who are not vampires. You don't have to kill anybody, you don't have to drink any blood, but they're immortal. I get to have all the fun of describing how they see us and how they see our culture and see our Christian faith and all of those things from their perspective."

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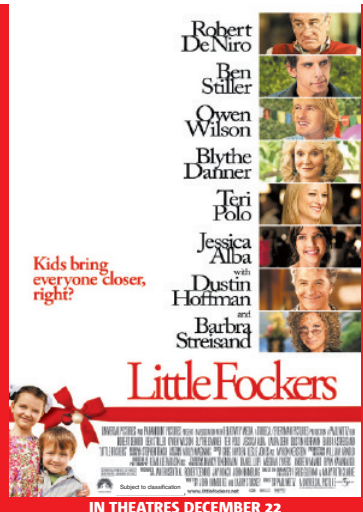
News worth sharing.



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X-tina pregnancy rumours persist

Christina Aguilera faces questions over nature of her new relationship

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES FILE

The timing of Christina Aguilera's divorce from Jordan Bratman and her blossoming relationship with Burlesque production assistant Matthew Rutler have some speculating that she began her new romance before ending her marriage — and gossip blog the Superficial has gone so far as to say she may be pregnant.

While Aguilera has insisted that she only started dating Rutler after her split from Bratman, new photos from the Burlesque set published by the Daily Mail show the pair by each other's side on a regular basis earlier this year.

METRO

Grammer proposes to new girlfriend

Though still not officially divorced from his current wife, Kelsey Grammer has proposed to girlfriend Kayte Walsh, according to Radar Online.

Walsh sported a diamond engagement ring while the two were in Washington, D.C., recently for the Kennedy Center Honors.

"They are engaged. They never really announced it," his rep tells the website.

"They are very happy and very much in love."

Walsh will be Grammer's fourth wife.

METRO

Talking points

Celebrities back from the dead

WE WERE KIND OF HOPING THEY WOULD STAY DEAD Alicia Keys' campaign to have celebrities like Lady Gaga, Justin Timberlake and Ryan Seacrest play dead on Twitter to raise $1 million for her HIV/AIDS charity has come to an end, thanks in large part to a $500,000 donation from billionaire Stewart Rahr, according to Popeater.

"From the bottom of my heart, thank you to all of the fans, friends and artists who joined this cause," Keys says in a statement.

But one celebrity participant couldn't wait for the campaign to be over: Usher began posting to Twitter on Sunday, before the donation target was reached. METRO

Timberlake on the shelf

INJURED An injury Justin Timberlake suffered while performing a stunt on the set of his new movie, Now, has shut down the production, according to E! Online.

Timberlake has been on crutches while performing promotional duties for other projects — including the Social Network and Yogi Bear — while waiting for his wounded calf muscle to heal. "(Timberlake) hasn't heard anything about the MRI results, but they're freezing production until he's off crutches and able to act again," a source says.

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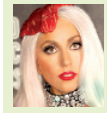
Celebrity tweets



Lady Gaga [@ladygaga] Havin a little too much fun on tourbus. Played the album for label, the rest is History.

Justin Timberlake [@jtimberlake] Justin Timberlake is alive! We raised $1mil to help KCA fight AIDS. Thank you so much and never stop buying life!

Sarah Silverman [@SarahKSilverman] It's only romantic for a man to leave a trail of rose petals if he then cleans up said rose petals

There's a winter resort in the United States for any kind of holiday you're looking for — even if you don't ski

5 TO TRY

The best of U.S. resorts

From coast to coast, the United States of America is blessed with majestic mountains, but when it comes to snow quality, terrain, and snowfall, the best are in the West.

DANIEL BAYER

Rocky Mountain snow is so light and fluffy it's called "champagne powder" while the Sierra Nevadas catch huge Pacific snowstorms.

Mix in stunning scenery, pristine slopes, a wide selection of accommodations and an array of après options.

The result? An outstanding winter holiday.

NIGHTLIFE
Aspen, Colorado

Aspen is arguably the best winter resort in the world, and when the sun goes down, this small town has nightlife to beat many international cities. There are more than 40 restaurants within six blocks offering everything from exclusive gourmet dining to freshly-made take-out pizza. The bars range from the hip hangouts to lively local watering holes. And if that's not enough, there are nightclubs and live music venues, too.
aspensnowmass.com

THRILL-SEEKERS
Jackson Hole, Wyoming

Jackson Hole has some of the steepest and most challenging ski and boarding terrain in North America. And unlike many resorts in the U.S., it allows you to use the lift system to gain access to the surrounding backcountry. It's hardcore terrain, and not for the inexperienced or ill-prepared. There's no avalanche control, so you go out at your own risk.
jacksonhole.com

▶ Winter Park

BUDGET
Winter Park, Colorado

Winter Park is the closest major resort to Denver, making it a contender for a cheaper, one-week stay. There are three mountains with a huge variety of terrain and a very impressive snowfall record. There is a new resort-based village as well as a small town close by and together they offer more than 50 bars and restaurants.
skiwinterpark.com

NON-SKIERS
Heavenly, California/Nevada

Situated on the shores of Lake Tahoe, Heavenly is where to go to enjoy stunning scenery. It sits astride the state line and as Nevada allows gambling there are several major casinos with cabaret shows, gaming tables, restaurants, bars, spas and live music. There are also trips out into the desert, visits to old West ghost towns and boat cruises on the lake.
skiheavenly.com

BEGINNERS
Breckenridge, Colorado

When you are learning to ski or board, quality professional instructors and a variety of perfect-pitch slopes make all the difference. Not only does Breckenridge score extremely high with both, the deal-breaker is its Colorado powder snow – this stuff is incredibly light and fluffy, which means fewer falls, and softer landings when you do.
breckenridge.com

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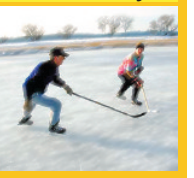
3 life

Pond hockey



Boardercross and pond hockey are among outdoor activities available this winter in the Jacques-Cartier region outside Quebec City. Stoneham Mountain Resort, a half-hour drive north of the provincial capital, has added a boardercross course and doubled the size of a snow park to give freestyle beginners more challenges.

And the eighth edition of the Lac-Beauport Pond Hockey Tournament will be held Feb. 5-6, hosting more than 100 teams on 25 rinks.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

ScanLife

Founders of Creation Museum propose religious theme park featuring Noah's Ark

▶ But it's a good start.

Relaxing is just the start

Tired of lying on the beach? The Dominican Republic offers plenty of adventures, from sailing to horseback riding

DENISE SURETTE
TRAVEL@METRONEWS.CA

Between bursts of Dominican sunshine and rum, you might forget to hold on for dear life. But no one on the catamaran sailing from Puerto Plata to the Bay of Sosua is unprepared for the unexpected.

While you might consider a Dominican vacation for relaxation, excitement and enjoying the geography can also be part your trip.

The Dominican Republic has many excursions to entice you from your resort. There are several on the peninsula of Samana, about 150 kilometres from Puerto Plata.

Samana is an up-and-comer for tourists looking for something besides beaches. Lush mountains covered in more than six million coconut palms make up the green landscape. Available through many local hotels and resorts, Rancho La Manzana provides horses and guides for a riding tour through the mountains to El Limon Waterfalls.

Despite her name, my horse, Violente, is calm as she treks through the rocky hills and slippery mud on the way to El Limon. Eventually we reach a stunning 40 metre waterfall, with a deep, green pool at the bottom you can swim in.

For a boating and hiking excursion, Samana's Los Haitises National Park provides a comprehensive half-day tour. Los Haitises, a sanctuary of caves and islands, is just a 45-minute boat ride from Samana.

DENISE SURETTE/FOR METRO CANADA

▶ Your trek is rewarded with a swim at El Limon waterfalls.

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Canada's largest restaurant promotion* is back!

We hope you're hungry! Celebrate Vancouver's spectacular food and wine scene during Dine Out Vancouver 2011, presented by Tourism Vancouver! From **January 24 to February 6**, indulge in your love of food and BC VQA wine at over 200 of Vancouver's hottest and hippest restaurants with three course meals at **$18, $28 & $38†** per person.

Still hungry? New for 2011!

Eat your way through a full menu of food events, cooking classes and dinner tours. Don't delay; they're only here for Dine Out!

The Inside Taste: A Sustainable Plate & Pairing Challenge
Jan 20

Launch your Dine Out Vancouver experience and get a sneak peek at some Dine Out Vancouver dishes! Eight DOV restaurant chefs vie for top food and BC VQA wine pairing honours at this inaugural event. Hosted by the Vancouver Aquarium in support of Ocean Wise™, Canada's leading sustainable seafood program.

Dine Academy
Jan 14 through Feb 11

Ever wish you could cook like a pro? Here's your chanc to learn from one. Back again for 2011, enjoy any number of these culinary classes, demos and market tours with The Dirty Apron Cooking School, Quince and The Pacific Institute of Culinary Arts.

Secret Supper Soirée
Jan 14, 15, 28, 29 and Feb 4, 5

Swallow Tail Secret Supper Club brings you a mystery dining adventure like no other. Hop on a classic Vancouver Trolley, and sip and savour in some unexpected venues on Dine Out Vancouver's culinary speakeasy tour!

Brasserie Mystère
Feb 10

Kronenbourg 1664 presents Brasserie Mystère – an exclusive dining experience prepared by a renowned chef, in a secret location, featuring an exceptional meal paired and enjoyed with Kronenbourg 1664. Discover a dining experience as exclusive as the beer. Kronenbourg 1664 is a Proud Supporting Sponsor of Dine Out Vancouver 2011.

Act I, Eat 1
Jan 27, 28 and Feb 4

Three epic dinner theatre pairings! The Arts Club Theatre Company and The Push International Performing Arts Festival pair two stellar shows with equally delicious meals at Cru, Red Door Pan Asian Grill and The Irish Heather Gastropub.

Dinner in the Dark
Feb 5

Do you dare? Culinary Capers Catering and Laughing Stock Winery present this sensory dining experience. Chef de Cuisine Jonathan Chovancek prepares a tantalizing eight course mystery dinner paired with wines and served at communal tables in the middle of their commercial kitchen. Blindfold included.

Book now at www.tourismvancouver.com/dov

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Make it a Night Out during Dine Out.

Choose from one of the three **Dine Out Hotel rates: $68, $98 or $138.** The following hotels have created these special rates for the Dine Out Vancouver period (valid for stays between January 24th and February 6)*:

$68

- Comfort Inn Downtown
- Quality Hotel Downtown – The Inn at False Creek
- Sandman Hotel Vancouver City Centre
- Delta Burnaby Hotel & Conference Centre
- Happy Day Inn
- North Vancouver Hotel

$98

- Best Western Downtown Vancouver
- The Empire Landmark hotel
- Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites Vancouver Downtown
- The Listel Hotel
- Sandman Suites on Davie
- Best Western Chateau Granville
- Inn at the Quay
- Century Plaza Hotel & Spa
- Delta Vancouver Airport
- Georgian Court Hotel
- Holiday Inn Vancouver Centre
- Sutton Place Hotel
- Radisson Hotel Vancouver Airport
- Sunset Inn & Suites
- Vancouver Airport Marriott

$138

- Delta Vancouver Suites
- Hyatt Regency Vancouver
- Pan Pacific Vancouver
- The Westin Grand Vancouver
- Coast Coal Harbour
- Granville Island Hotel
- Holiday Inn North Vancouver
- Time Square Suites

Best Bite Awards Cast your vote for your favourite restaurant experience and you could Dine Out for a Year! Dinner reservations accepted starting January 6.

Book now at www.tourismvancouver.com/dov

* Rates are quoted in Canadian currency, are subject to availability and based on double occupancy. Valid only for stays between January 24, 2011 and February 6, 2011.

A sweet wreath to ring in the season

American Holiday Wreath Bread fuses taste, tradition and culture

Whether they call it babka, stollen, panettone, king cake, cozonac, kringle or challah, people around the world use rich, festive breads to celebrate holidays.

We drew on the recipes and traditions of numerous holiday breads to bake one that will seem at once familiar and fresh.

And because holidays and their food are meant to be shared with loved ones, we made it big. Really big. And really good.

So bake it and, of course, share it!

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ingredients:

Dough
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) water
- Hearty pinch saffron threads, crushed
- 500 ml (2 cups) milk
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) instant (also called fast-rise) yeast
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) honey
- 75 ml (1/3 cup) vegetable or canola oil
- 3 whole eggs
- 3 egg yolks
- 10 ml (2 tsp) salt
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp ground cardamom
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) cinnamon
- 2 l (8 cups) bread flour
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) golden raisins
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) dried cranberries
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) hazelnuts, toasted and chopped
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) candied ginger, chopped

Filling
- 1 pkg (250 g/8 oz) cream cheese
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) granulated sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 ml (1/4 tsp) lemon zest

Topping
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) brown sugar
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) granulated sugar
- 175 ml (3/4 cup) all-purpose flour
- 7 ml (1/2 tbsp) cinnamon
- Pinch salt
- 90 ml (6 tbsp) unsalted butter (3/4 stick), cut in chunks
- 1 egg, beaten with 5 ml (1 tsp) water

Icing
- 375 ml (1 1/2 cups) powdered sugar
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) heavy cream
- 1 egg
- 5 ml (1 tsp) almond extract

Preparation:

1. In a microwave safe bowl, combine water and saffron. Microwave on high until boiling, then set aside to cool.
2. Once cooled, in the bowl of a stand mixer, combine saffron water, milk, yeast, honey, oil, eggs, yolks, salt, cardamom, cinnamon and flour. Using dough hook attachment, mix on low until a soft dough forms. Continue mixing on low to knead for 6 to 7 minutes.
3. Add raisins, cranberries, hazelnuts and ginger, then knead until incorporated. Cover bowl with plastic wrap and allow to rest for 2 hours. The dough also can be placed in the refrigerator and allowed to rest overnight. Shortly before dough has finished resting, make cream cheese filling and streusel topping.
4. Filling: In a large bowl, use an electric mixer to cream together cream cheese and sugar until well combined and lump-free. Add egg and lemon zest and mix until smooth. Set aside.

▶ Holidays breads are typically laden with fruit, nuts and spices.

5. Streusel Topping: In a medium bowl, combine both sugars, flour, cinnamon and salt. Add butter and rub together until it has all been incorporated and crumbs have all been moistened.
6. When dough has finished resting, it should be doubled in size and quite puffy. Coat a large baking pan with baking spray or line the pan with parchment paper. Turn the dough out onto a lightly floured surface. Roll your dough into a 60-by-45-cm (24-by-18-inch) rectangle. Spread your cream cheese filling over the surface of the dough, leaving a 5-cm (2-inch) strip of uncovered dough along the long side farthest from you.
7. Starting with the side closest to you, roll dough up to form a long log. Slightly moisten edge of dough and pinch to seal. Keeping sealed edge of log on bottom, move dough to prepared sheet pan. Bring ends together to form a large circle, then insert one end into the other end to seal. The wreath should be about 30 cm (12 inches) across
8. Paint wreath all over with beaten egg, then top with streusel mixture, patting it into place with your hands. Cover loosely with plastic wrap, then let rest for an hour or until risen and puffy. After about 45 minutes of rising, heat oven to 180 C (350 F).
9. Use a sharp knife to make about 6 slashes around top of bread. Bake for 1 hour or until a deep golden colour. Let cool for 5 minutes before moving to a rack to cool completely. Once cooled, prepare icing. In a medium bowl, whisk together powdered sugar, cream and almond extract. Drizzle over loaf.

Nutrition information per serving (values are rounded to the nearest whole number): 421 calories; 131 calories from fat (31 per cent of total calories); 15 g fat (6 g saturated; 0 g trans fats); 95 mg cholesterol; 64 g carbohydrate; 10 g protein; 2 g fibre; 225 mg sodium.

This ain't your Grandma's fruitcake

Ingredients:

- 125 ml (1/2 cup) shortening
- 250 ml (1 cup) sugar
- 3 eggs
- 3 squares (each 30 g/1 oz) unsweetened chocolate, melted
- 500 ml (2 cups) all-purpose flour
- 10 ml (2 tsp) baking powder
- 5 ml (1 tsp) salt
- 5 ml (1 tsp) cinnamon
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) milk
- 750 ml (3 cups) mixed chopped candied fruits and peels
- 250 ml (1 cup) raisins
- 250 ml (1 cup) broken walnuts
- 10 ml (2 tsp) butter
- Cocoa powder, to coat pan

Per serving: 416 calories; 185 calories from fat (44 per cent of total calories); 21 g fat (6 g saturated; 3 g trans fats); 56 mg cholesterol; 58 g carbohydrate; 7 g protein; 3 g fibre; 200 mg sodium.

Marie Rudisill, produced the slim volume Fruitcake in 2000 by culling numerous variations on the theme from a 19th-century journal.

Regardless of the variety, good fruitcake - and yes, there is such a thing - abides by certain rules.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Preparation:

1. Heat oven to 140 C (275 F).
2. In a large bowl, use an electric mixer to cream shortening and sugar until creamy. Add eggs, one at a time, beating well between. Stir in chocolate.
3. Sift together flour, baking powder, salt and cinnamon. Add flour mixture to egg-sugar mixture in batches, alternating with milk. Mix well. Stir in candied fruit, raisins and walnuts.
4. Use butter to coat a 25-cm (10-inch) tube pan. Dust pan with cocoa powder, tapping it to remove any excess. Spread batter in pan and bake for 1 hour 40 minutes or until a knife inserted at the centre comes out clean. Let cool in pan.

▶ A Rudisill rule: Make your fruitcake at least four to six weeks in advance. This will give its flavour time to develop

Don't forget!

Want a cake that doesn't get rejected right away?

▶ **Keep it moist**
During baking, rotate the fruitcake every 15 minutes and don't overcook it. Rudisill suggests placing a shallow pan of hot water in the oven during baking.

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ISTOCK

▶ A demotion can actually be used as a bargaining tool, according to career counsellors.

A demotion doesn't mean you should settle

Being demoted is a chance to bargain or start over

DREW HINSHAW
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA

What higher management giveth, it can taketh away. When your overlings revoke that promotion and dump you back onto the factory floor, the reverse vertigo can leave you feeling like a token trapped in the company's game of Chutes and Ladders.

The temptation for most corporate climbers who take a job title tumble is to hop up, dust off, and dive back in as if nothing ever happened.

But if you'd truly like to bounce back, career counsellors warn, you ought to first seek a sanctuary where you can vent frustrations.

"You need to have a support system outside of work where you can express how you feel so you're not holding it in," says Barbara Frankel, a career coach in New York.

"After you've gotten out your true anger related to the situation, express it to your boss where it's at the level of disappointment.

"You can say, 'You know, I'm not happy about this. I really enjoyed and preferred that other job.'"

Once you've gathered a clear head, don't be afraid to drive a hard bargain.

"Most people start to feel like a chess piece, like the company is just moving them around, so they don't step up and negotiate," Frankel says.

"You need to enlist your boss, and talk about what's possible from here."

"It may be that your company doesn't see you as a big contributor and this could be an opportunity to step up," she adds.

If there's no possible way to view your demotion as an opportunity, it can always be an opportunity to leave.

"No one's got a gun to your head, forcing you to accept the situation," offers Maggie Mistal, host of Sirius Radio's Making a Living. "It's still a choice you're making."

Whatever you decide, make it deliberate, she suggests. And don't feel like you have to bum stay in a degrading post to keep your resumé in tact.

"If the resentment is that bad, keep job hunting and going for the job you're geared towards," Mistal says. "You can always justify that to a future employer.

Listening to the experts is like trusting a chimp

Future Babble outlines where people go wrong with decision making ▶ The blame falls on experts

CRAIG LUND
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA

As a species, us human folk respond very poorly to uncertainty.

Just think about how we look to weather readers for forecasts, and how often their predictions aren't exactly accurate.

According to author Dan Gardner, people look to experts to help set their expectations so that they can be prepared for what's to come.

The problem, however, is that these experts are rarely on the mark. In fact, not even close.

In Gardner's book, Future Babble, he references how Brill's magazine "compared the predictions of famous American pundits to a Chimpanzee named Chippy, who made his guesses by choosing among flash cards."

Chippy had more hits than the acclaimed pundits.

Gardner also outlines an exhaustive list of calamities, predicted and real, covering famous documents such as Paul Ehrlich's 1968 The Population Bomb, predicting mass global famine for the '70s (which never happened), and Ravi Batra's 1987 book The Great Depression of 1990, which ended up being a very brief and mild recession.

In both cases, the 'experts' defend their publications with "I was almost right" or "it wouldn't have happened if I hadn't been blindsided by an unforeseeable event."

The most audacious of the excuses is the "self negating prophecy," meaning that because of the warnings and hoopla, we were able to prevent catastrophe. Think Y2K.

One of the experiments Gardner discusses is a shock test conducted on a group of people.

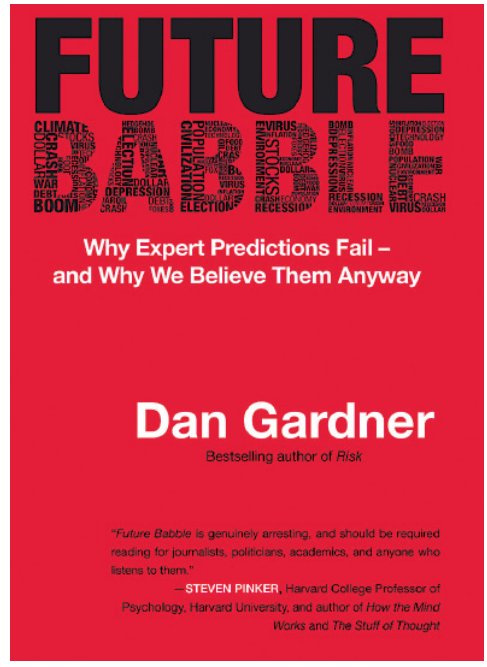
Half of the group was told it would have a series of 17 mild shocks, with three additional random shocks.

The other half was informed it would be exposed to 20 strong shocks.

Results showed that the group exposed to the full series of strong shocks felt far less anxiety as their expectations were that they were getting 20 strong shocks, no surprises.

Future Babble is a truly interesting and thoroughly researched book for the social economist in your network.

Craig Lund, is the President Elect of the American Marketing Associations Toronto Chapter and can be reached at hello@craiglund.ca.



▶ **Future Babble: Why Expert Predictions Fail — and Why We Believe Them Anyway**
By Dan Gardner,
McClelland & Stewart Ltd.,
267 pages, $32.99

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Try decking the office halls

Office parties can show appreciation during economic hardships

DREW HINSHAW
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA

Think you can deck your office halls with store-bought holly, string mistletoe under the fluorescent lights, sprinkle nutmeg in the coffee maker, and call it a Christmas fête?

Professional party planners say you might as well give your employees a lump of coal — or worse, coal with the company logo monogrammed on it.

"It's hard to forget about work and enjoy the festivities when the phones are ringing," says Phyllis Cambria, author of the Idiot's Guide to Throwing a Great Party.

Of course, it's also hard for corporate number crunchers to justify a lavish jingle bell rock in a recession Christmas.

But tough times, Cambria explains, transform seasonal ceremonies into must-have moments.

It's a time when exhausted desk jockeys can unwrap their personalities and untie those tangled worker-boss relationships.

"What makes it worthwhile is when the bosses put the emphasis on the staff," says Party Charlie, celebrity party planner.

"That's what a holiday party is for.

"It's an employee appreciation moment."

To pull it off, Charlie suggests getting those snarky underlings to check their cynicism where they check their coat.

"Wherever you have your party, make sure you do something at the entrance," he says.

"The moment that people get to the party, let them know there's a party going on."

An unexpected greeting at the door can spark smiles, especially for spouses and family, whom you should invite, Cambria advises.

For an extra layer of role reversal fun, have company higher-ups guard the entrance like butlers offering tray loads of treats.

"At first, people will be like, 'Hey what's going on?' but then they'll say, 'It is actually pretty cool to have the president of the company serving me hors d'oeuvres,'" says Cambria.

▶ Experts advise putting emphasis on employees during holiday office parties.

Workplace Law

DANIEL LUBLIN
WORK@METRONEWS.CA

CHANGES TO YOUR PAY? STAY AND SUE

With a new company president poised to reduce operating costs, Lorenzo Russo saw the writing on the wall.

As the long time warehouse manager at candy manufacturer Kerr Bros. Limited, Russo was paid in excess of $100,000 — a salary considered excessive by his new boss.

After 37 years with the company, changing Russo's salary wasn't easy.

After slashing every employee's pay by 10 per cent and cutting the company's pension plan, the President focused on Russo, insisting he take a further pay cut amounting to almost half of his usual salary. When Russo refused, his salary was still reduced.

Russo responded by retaining a lawyer, who wrote to the company to complain.

When a substantial pay cut is imposed by a company, employees typically think in terms of "constructive dismissal," which permits them to leave and then sue for severance.

Here, however, Russo's lawyer confirmed that Russo did not accept the change to his compensation but instead of leaving, he was going to stay and sue for the difference in pay.

Russo and his lawyer hit upon something big in the case.

At a recent trial, the company attempted to defeat Russo's claim by arguing that having stayed on with the company after the change to his pay, Russo had effectively condoned that change.

However, Russo's lawyer argued that his client made it clear that he was not accepting the change and that by staying at work while he sued, he was simply trying to minimize any losses he had suffered.

The court agreed with Russo and awarded him the difference in the pay he would have earned had his salary not been cut.

Allowing Russo to remain and work, despite his protests, was actually the very evidence that Russo needed to make out his claim.

What does this case mean for Canadian workplaces? Employees are empowered to reject real changes to their jobs since, even in a tough economy, employers cannot simply force significant pay cuts or adverse working conditions on their employees.

Importantly, in light of this case, employees do not even need to leave work and go to court in order to protest these types of changes.

One strategy is now to stay and sue for damages.

Planting a green future

One of Canada's longest-serving environmental charities is rewarding post-secondary students for thinking green.

TD Friends of the Environment Foundation (TD FEF) is inviting students to enter the fourth annual TD Go Green Challenge.

This year applicants are asked to submit a two to three minute video on how they would make a difference to the environment on their campus.

The first place team will receive $20,000, paid summer internships for each student and $100,000 to support sustainability initiatives at their university or their college.

For more information, please visit tdfef.com/gogreen.

NEWS CANADA

4 sports

Opinion

RORY BOYLEN
THE HOCKEY NEWS

WEAK DIVISION AN ADVANTAGE

The NHL's Southeast Division used to be stuck with the moniker the "Southeast Division" and rightfully so. Back in the days before the Washington Capitals were a powerhouse, the grouping lacked a model franchise and struggled to get more than two of its teams into the post-season.

But the Southeast was never so bad that three of its members finished 13, 14 and 15 in the post-lockout Eastern Conference. In fact, the last division to suffer that kind of futility was the Central Division in 2005-06, when Columbus, Chicago and St. Louis grabbed hold of the West's bottom three rungs.

The difference between the Southeast and that year's Central is that the Central housed the Detroit Red Wings — a model franchise not just in the division, but across the league. The Red Wings took advantage of their inferior competition by going 25-3-4 against the Central that year en route to a 58-win, 124-point season that was the team's best performance since its record-setting 62-win 1995-96 season.

So we entered last night with the Canucks atop a Northwest Division that includes the West's bottom three teams: Minnesota, Edmonton and Calgary. It's fair to say that, given their Stanley Cup aspirations heading into the season, the Canucks are a powerhouse, so it's time to take advantage. In the past two years, when the Canucks won the Northwest they scored 15 wins against a pretty strong division with a rising team in Colorado, so 20 should be their goal for 2010-11.

With a 6-1-0 start, Vancouver is certainly off on the right foot as it hasn't lost a divisional game since a 6-2 decision to Minnesota on Oct. 19. The only divisional games the Canucks play through the rest of December are two against the Oilers, but in January they have six divisional showdowns.

As Ken Campbell wrote in a recent issue of The Hockey News magazine, the West is clearly the better conference. There are deeper, tougher teams and the road to the post-season and Stanley Cup is much more difficult than it is in the more watered-down East. So the fact that the Canucks' trek is already difficult enough playing on the Left Coast means the importance of putting away their weaker divisional opponents is immense.

It might just be what gives them the edge to finish first in the West and earn home-ice advantage throughout the post-season.

Quoted

"To hear the organization telling me to go shopping and I just told you I wasn't going to, oh yeah, if I'm going to be honest with you, I was angry about it."

YANKEES SHORTSTOP DEREK JETER, ON HIS REACTION TO YANKEES GM BRIAN CASHMAN SAYING HE SHOULD EXPLORE OTHER OPTIONS IF HE WAS DISSATISFIED WITH NEW YORK'S OFFER. JETER AND THE YANKEES FINALIZED A $51-MILLION US, THREE-YEAR CONTRACT YESTERDAY.

Valentine gets job with Caps

One of the most popular members of the Vancouver Whitecaps has a new job with the team as it prepares for its first Major League Soccer season in 2011.

Carl Valentine will serve as an ambassador and staff coach for the team, the Whitecaps said in a news release yesterday. The former striker had been head coach of the Ottawa Fury in the USL Premier Development League.

In his role as ambassador, the 52-year-old Valentine will make appearances at various Whitecaps events.

As a player, Valentine was part of the Whitecaps team that won the 1979 NASL championship.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Soccer. Champions League

▶ FC Copenhagen goalkeeper Johan Wiland makes a save yesterday.

LARS POULSEN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Copenhagen advances to knockout stage

FC Copenhagen clinched second spot in Group D by beating Panathinaikos 3-1 yesterday, becoming the first Danish team to advance to the knockout stage of the Champions League. Martin Vingaard gave Copenhagen a 1-0 lead in the 26th minute and Jesper Gronkjaer doubled the advantage from the penalty spot in the 50th.

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NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OTL	SL	GF	GA	Pts	Home	Away	Last 10	Strk
d-Pittsburgh	29	19	8	2	0	91	67	40	9-5-1-0	10-3-1-0	10-0-0-0	W10
d-Washington	29	18	8	1	2	96	79	39	12-2-0-2	6-6-1-0	4-4-0-2	L3
d-Montreal	28	18	8	2	0	75	54	38	11-4-2-0	7-4-0-0	6-3-1-0	W3
Philadelphia	28	17	7	2	2	95	69	38	10-5-0-1	7-2-2-1	5-3-0-2	W2
Tampa Bay	27	15	9	2	1	84	94	33	7-2-1-1	8-7-1-0	7-2-0-1	W1
Boston	26	15	8	0	3	75	52	33	6-5-0-2	9-3-0-1	5-3-0-2	W1
Atlanta	28	15	10	1	2	88	80	33	9-5-0-1	6-5-1-1	8-2-0-0	W2
NY Rangers	29	16	12	1	0	83	77	33	6-8-1-0	10-4-0-0	6-4-0-0	L1
Buffalo	28	11	13	4	0	70	76	26	5-8-1-0	6-5-3-0	5-4-1-0	L1
Ottawa	29	12	15	1	1	62	85	26	7-7-0-1	5-8-1-0	3-6-0-1	L1
Carolina	26	11	12	0	3	75	84	25	6-5-0-1	5-7-0-2	3-4-0-3	L1
Toronto	26	10	12	2	2	59	76	24	7-5-2-1	3-7-0-1	5-4-1-0	W2
Florida	27	12	15	0	0	70	73	24	6-5-0-0	6-10 0-0	3-7-0-0	L1
New Jersey	27	8	17	1	1	50	81	18	4-6-1-1	4-11-0-0	3-7-0-0	L3
NY Islanders	25	5	15	3	2	53	83	15	3-6-1-1	2-9-2-1	1-6-2-1	L3

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OTL	SL	GF	GA	Pts	Home	Away	Last 10	Strk
d-Detroit	25	17	5	2	1	86	67	37	10-2-1-1	7-3-1-0	6-2-2-0	L2
d-Dallas	26	16	8	0	2	76	69	34	10-3-0-1	6-5-0-1	7-1-0-2	L1
d-Vancouver	25	14	8	1	2	80	64	31	8-3-0-1	6-5-1-1	5-4-1-0	L1
Phoenix	26	13	7	4	2	74	72	32	5-3-2-2	8-4-2-0	7-2-0-1	W1
Chicago	29	15	12	1	1	90	84	32	7-8-0-0	8-4-1-1	7-3-0-0	W1
Columbus	26	15	10	0	1	70	71	31	7-7-0-1	8-3-0-0	5-4-0-1	W1
Anaheim	30	14	13	2	1	74	89	31	9-6-0-1	5-7-2-0	4-5-1-0	W1
Los Angeles	25	15	10	0	0	69	61	30	10-2-0-0	5-8-0-0	3-7-0-0	W2
San Jose	26	13	9	4	0	78	73	30	7-4-2-0	6-5-2-0	4-4-2-0	W1
St. Louis	26	13	9	2	2	67	72	30	8-2-0-1	5-7-2-1	4-5-1-0	W1
Nashville	26	12	8	4	2	65	68	30	5-1-3-2	7-7-1-0	5-2-1-2	L1
Colorado	27	13	10	4	0	94	86	30	7-4-1-0	6-6-3-0	4-3-3-0	L4
Minnesota	26	11	11	1	3	63	76	26	7-6-0-2	4-5-1-1	3-5-1-1	L5
Calgary	28	12	14	1	1	78	84	26	7-6-0-0	5-8-1-1	4-4-1-1	W1
Edmonton	27	10	12	1	4	72	96	25	4-6-1-1	6-6-1-2	6-2-0-2	L1

d — division leaders ranked 1-2-3 regardless of points; a team winning in overtime or shootout is credited with two points and a victory in the W column; the team losing in overtime or shootout receives one point which is registered in the OTL (overtime loss) or SL (shootout loss) column.

Last night's results
Anaheim 3 Edmonton 2 (SO)
Boston 3 Buffalo 2 (OT)
Calgary 4 Tampa Bay 2
Florida 4 Colorado 3 (OT)
Montreal 4 Ottawa 1
Monday's results
Toronto 5 Washington 4 (SO)
Atlanta 3 Nashville 2 (OT)
Columbus 3 Dallas 2 (SO)
Pittsburgh 2 New Jersey 1
San Jose 5 Detroit 2
Tonight's games
All Times Eastern
San Jose at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
Toronto at Pittsburgh, 7 p.m.
Nashville at Detroit, 7 p.m.
Dallas at Chicago, 8:30 p.m.
Anaheim at Vancouver, 10 p.m.

FLAMES 4, LIGHTNING 2

First Period
1. Calgary, Sarich 1 (Pardy, Morrison) 7:21
2. Calgary, Kotsopolous 2 (Bourque, Giordano) 13:46
Penalties — Clark TB (tripping) 0:56.
Second Period
3. Calgary, Bourque 12 (Glencross, Backlund) 4:43
4. Tampa Bay, Harju 1 (Kubina, Jones) 8:45
5. Tampa Bay, Malone 8 (Thompson, Hedman) 19:00
Penalties — Bouwmeester Cal (interference) 9:47, Kubina TB (tripping) 16:18.
Third Period
6. Calgary, Iginla 12 (Bouwmeester, Bourque) 8:42 (pp)
Penalties — Regehr Cal (interference) 0:49, Thompson TB (interference) 6:39, Hall TB (high-sticking) 8:29.
Shots on goal by

Tampa Bay	10	7	7	—24
Calgary	7	6	6	—19

Goal — Tampa Bay: Ellis (L,7-5-3); Calgary: Kiprusoff (W,10-13-0). **Power plays (goals-chances)** — Tampa Bay: 0-2; Calgary: 1-4.
Attendance — 19,289 (19,289) at Calgary.

DUCKS 3, OILERS 2 (SO)

First Period — No Scoring
Penalty — Mara Ana (roughing) 3:31.
Second Period
1. Anaheim, Koivu 10 (Selanne, Fowler) 5:44
Penalties — Marchant Ana (hooking) 6:33, Vandermeer Edm (boarding) 11:35, Whitney Edm (hooking) 17:10.
Third Period
2. Anaheim, Selanne 9 (Sutton, Koivu) 6:32
3. Edmonton, Jones 7 (Paajarvi, Gilbert) 10:29
4. Edmonton, Penner 9 (Foster, Gilbert) 13:39 (pp)
Penalties Mara Ana (roughing) 0:11, Jacques Edm (roughing) 0:11, Sutton Ana (interference) 11:41, Gilbert Edm (delay of game) 17:31.
Overtime — No Scoring.
Shootout — (Anaheim wins 2-1)
Anaheim (2) — Lupul, goal; Selanne, miss; Perry, miss; Getzlaf, miss; Koivu, miss; Blake, miss; Ryan, miss; Visnovsky, miss; Lydman, miss; Fowler, goal; **Edmonton (1)** — Gagner, miss; Eberle, miss; Hall, goal; Brule, miss; Penner, miss; Paajarvi, miss; Jones, miss; Foster, miss; Cogliano, miss; Fraser, miss
Shots on goal by

Anaheim	8	9	12	3— 32
Edmonton	10	7	15	4— 36

Goal — Anaheim: Hiller (W,12-11-2); Edmonton: Khabibulin (SOL, 6-10-2). **Power plays (goals-chances)** — Anaheim: 0-3; Edmonton: 1-3.
Attendance — 16,839 (16,839) at Edmonton.

CANADIENS 4, SENATORS 1

First Period
1. Montreal, Cammalleri 9, 9:09 (pp)
2. Ottawa, Foligno 2 (Spezza, Karlsson) 19:51 (pp)
Penalties — Carkner Ott (holding) 8:43, Gorges Mtl (interference) 19:30.
Second Period — No Scoring.
Penalties — Kelly Ott (boarding major, game misconduct) 8:46, Fisher Ott (double high-sticking) 17:38, Picard Mtl (tripping) 19:37.
Third Period
3. Montreal, Halpern 6 (Lapierre) 2:18
4. Montreal Gionta 9, 10:01
5. Montreal, Hamrlik 3 (Gionta, Eller) 16:28
Penalties — Carkner Ott (holding) 11:29, Campoli Ott, Plekanec Mtl (roughing) 15:38, Neil Ott (slashing), Moen Mtl (roughing, misconduct) 18:46.
Shots on goal by

Ottawa	6	13	9—28
Montreal	13	9	13—35

Goal (shots-saves) — Ottawa: Leclaire (L,2-7-1) (start, 18:06 third)(33-30), Elliot (15:38 third) (2-1); Montreal: Price (W,17-7-2). **Power plays (goals-chances)** — Ottawa: 1-1. Montreal: 1-5.
Attendance — 21,273 (21,273) at Montreal.

SCORING LEADERS

	G	A	PT
Crosby, Pgh	24	24	48
Stamkos, TB	21	19	40
Ovechkin, Wash	12	23	35
St. Louis, TB	11	23	34
Semin, Wash	18	15	33
Backstrom, Wash	11	21	32
D.Sedin, Vcr	14	17	31
B.Richards, Dal	12	19	31
Hejduk, Col	10	20	30

Not including last night's games

SOCCER

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

All Times Eastern
FIRST ROUND
x — clinched berth in second round.
Top two teams in each group advance; third-place teams go to Europa League

Group A

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
x-Tottenham	6	3	2	1	18	11	11
x-Inter Milan	6	3	1	2	12	11	10
Twente	6	1	3	2	9	11	6
Werder Bremen	6	1	2	3	6	12	5

Yesterday's results
Twente 3 Tottenham 3
Werder Bremen 3 Inter Milan 0

Group B

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
x-Schalke	6	4	1	1	10	3	13
x-Lyon	6	3	1	2	11	10	10
Benfica	6	2	0	4	7	12	6
Hapoel Tel Aviv	6	1	2	3	7	10	5

Yesterday's results
Benfica 1 Schalke 2
Lyon 2 Hapoel Tel-Aviv 2

Group C

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
x-Manchester Utd	6	4	2	0	7	1	14
x-Valencia	6	3	2	1	15	4	11
Glasgow Rangers	6	1	3	2	3	6	6
Buraspor	6	0	1	5	2	16	1

Yesterday's results
Bursaspor 1 Glasgow Rangers 1
Manchester United 1 Valencia 1

Group D

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
x-Barcelona	6	4	2	0	14	3	14
x-Copenhagen	6	3	1	2	7	5	10
Rubin Kazan	6	1	3	2	2	4	6
Panathinaikos	6	0	2	4	2	13	2

Yesterday's results
Barcelona 2 Rubin Kazan 0
Copenhagen 3 Panathinaikos 1

Group E

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
x-Bayern Munich	5	4	0	1	13	6	12
AS Roma	5	3	0	2	9	8	9
Basel	5	2	0	3	8	8	6
Cluj	5	1	0	4	5	11	3

Today's games
Bayern Munich vs. Basel, 2:45 p.m.
Cluj vs. AS Roma, 2:45 p.m.

Group F

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
x-Chelsea	5	5	0	0	14	3	15
x-Marseille	5	3	0	2	11	3	9
Spartak Moscow	5	2	0	3	5	9	6
Zilina	5	0	0	5	2	17	0

Today's games
Marseille vs. Chelsea, 2:45 p.m.
Zilina vs. Spartak Moscow, 2:45 p.m.

Group G

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
x-Real Madrid	5	4	1	0	11	2	13
x-AC Milan	5	2	2	1	7	5	8
Ajax	5	1	1	3	4	10	4
Auxerre	5	1	0	4	3	8	3

Today's games
AC Milan vs. Ajax, 2:45 p.m.
Real Madrid vs. Auxerre, 2:45 p.m.

Group H

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
Shakhtar Donetsk	5	4	0	1	10	6	12
Arsenal	5	3	0	2	15	6	9
Braga	5	3	0	2	5	9	9
Partizan Belgrade	5	0	0	5	1	10	0

Arsenal vs. Partizan Belgrade, 2:45 p.m.
Shakhtar Donetsk vs. Braga, 2:45 p.m.
End of First Round

SNOWBOARDING

WORLD CUP

At Lech Am Arlberg, Austria
Yesterday's results
Snowboardcross
Women — 1. Dominique Maltais, Petite-Riviere-St-Francois, Que., 1,000 points; 2. Maelle Ricker, Whistler, B.C., 800; 3. Yuka Fujimori, Japan, 600; 4. Deborah Anthonioz, France, 500; 5. Maria Ramberger, Austria, 450.
Men — 1. Nate Holland, U.S., 1,000 points; **2. Tom Velisek, Squamish. B.C., 800**; 3. Mario Fuchs, Austria, 600; **4. Dan Csokonay, Calgary, 500**; 5. David Speiser, Germany, 450; **Also —7. Kevin Hill, Vernon, B.C., 360.**

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	16	4	.800	—
New York	13	9	.591	4
Toronto	8	13	.381	8½
Philadelphia	7	14	.333	9½
New Jersey	6	16	.273	11

SOUTHEAST DIVISION	W	L	Pct	GB
Orlando	15	6	.714	—
Atlanta	15	8	.652	1
Miami	14	8	.636	1½
Charlotte	8	13	.381	7
Washington	6	14	.300	8½

CENTRAL DIVISION	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	11	8	.579	—
Indiana	10	9	.526	1
Milwaukee	7	13	.350	4½
Cleveland	7	14	.333	5
Detroit	7	15	.318	5½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

SOUTHWEST DIVISION	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	17	3	.850	—
Dallas	17	4	.810	½
New Orleans	13	7	.650	4
Houston	8	13	.381	9½
Memphis	8	14	.364	10

NORTHWEST DIVISION	W	L	Pct	GB
Utah	16	6	.727	—
Denver	13	7	.650	2
Oklahoma City	14	8	.636	2
Portland	10	11	.476	5½
Minnesota	5	16	.238	10½

PACIFIC DIVISION	W	L	Pct	GB
L.A. Lakers	15	6	.714	—
Phoenix	11	10	.524	4
Golden State	8	13	.381	7
L.A. Clippers	5	17	.227	10½
Sacramento	4	15	.211	10

Last night's results7
Atlanta 116 New Jersey 101
Charlotte 100 Denver 98
Dallas 105 Golden State 100
Houston 97 Detroit 83
L.A. Lakers 115 Washington 108
Philadelphia 117 Cleveland 97
Portland 106 Phoenix 99
Monday's results
Indiana 124 Toronto 100
Atlanta 80 Orlando 74
New York 121 Minnesota 114
Chicago 99 Oklahoma City 90
Miami 88 Milwaukee 78
Utah 94 Memphis 85
L.A. Clippers 98 Sacramento 91
Tonight's games
(All times Eastern)
Denver at Boston, 7 p.m.
Chicago at Cleveland, 7 p.m.
Toronto at New York, 7:30 p.m.
Indiana at Milwaukee, 8 p.m.
Oklahoma City at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Detroit at New Orleans, 8 p.m.
Golden State at San Antonio, 8:30 p.m.
Memphis at Phoenix, 9 p.m.
Miami at Utah, 9 p.m.
Washington at Sacramento, 10 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m.

LEAGUE LEADERS

SCORING AVERAGE

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Durant, OKC	18	157	155	494	27.4
Bryant, LAL	20	180	142	529	26.5
Stoudemire, NYK	22	206	139	556	25.3
Ellis, GOL	20	194	87	503	25.2
Nowitzki, DAL	20	192	100	498	24.9
Rose, CHI	18	172	78	448	24.9
Gordon, LAC	20	156	149	486	24.3
James, MIA	22	172	156	522	23.7
Westbrook, OKC	22	172	171	521	23.7
Anthony, DEN	19	149	121	433	22.8
Martin, HOU	20	127	151	449	22.5
Williams, UTA	22	162	123	480	21.8
Beasley, MIN	19	166	65	414	21.8
Wade, MIA	21	158	128	456	21.7
Gay, MEM	22	184	75	474	21.5
Granger, IND	19	144	72	406	21.4
Richardson, PHX	20	161	43	424	21.2
Curry, GOL	18	141	68	381	21.2

Not including last night's games

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL

MLB

AMERICAN LEAGUE

L.A. ANGELS — Named Keith Johnson manager of Salt Lake (PCL), Bill Mosiello manager of Arkansas (TL), Tom Gamboa manager and Damon Mashore hitting coach of Inland Empire (Cal), Brenton Del Chiaro manager and Trevor Wilson pitching coach of Cedar Rapids (MWL), Jim Gott pitching coach of the Angels (Arizona), Nathan Haynes hitting coach of Orem (Pioneer), Bobby Mitchell roving outfield, baserunning and bunting coordinator, Orlando Mercado roving catching coordinator and Jeff Pickler roving infield coach.
N.Y. YANKEES — Agreed to terms with SS Derek Jeter on a three-year contract.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS—Agreed to terms with RHP J.J. Putz on a two-year contract.
HOUSTON ASTROS—Named Paul Runge minor league field coordinator.
N.Y. METS — Named Leigh J. Castergine vice president, ticket sales and services.
PITTSBURGH PIRATES — Agreed to terms with RHP Kevin Correia on a two-year contract. and LHP Scott Olsen on a one-year contract.

BASKETBALL

NBA

NEW JERSEY NETS — Recalled G-F Terrence Williams from Springfield (NBADL).

FOOTBALL

NFL

ARIZONA CARDINALS — Placed QB Max Hall on injured reserve. Signed QB Richard Bartel.
BUFFALO BILLS — Placed G Kraig Urbik on injured reserve. Signed G Chad Rinehart from the practice squad. Signed C Sean Allen to the practice squad.
CLEVELAND BROWNS—Signed TE Tyson DeVree to the practice squad. Released DB Rod Windsor from the practice squad.
INDIANAPOLIS COLTS—Placed CB Jerraud Powers on injured reserve. Signed RB Dominic Rhodes.
JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS—Signed S Michael Hamlin from the practice squad. Waived OT Adam Terry. Signed DB Chris Chancellor to the practice squad.
MINNESOTA VIKINGS—Placed RB Albert Young on injured reserve. Signed RB Lorenzo Booker. Signed QB R.J. Archer to the practice squad. Waived C Adrian Martinez from the practice squad.
PITTSBURGH STEELERS — Signed P Jeremy Kapinos.
TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS — Re-signed C Donovan Raiola.
WASHINGTON REDSKINS — Suspended DL Albert Haynesworth for the remainder of the regular season for "conduct detrimental to the club."

HOCKEY

NHL

DALLAS STARS — Assigned LW Francis Wathier to Texas (AHL).
NEW JERSEY DEVILS — Assigned G Mike McKenna to Albany (AHL).
PHOENIX COYOTES — Recalled D Oliver Ekman-Larsson from San Antonio (AHL).
VANCOUVER CANUCKS — Re-assigned C Joel Perrault to Manitoba (AHL). Recalled LW Jonas Andersson from Manitoba.

ECHL

VICTORIA SALMON KINGS — Traded G Daren Machesney to Elmira for G Zane Kalemba and future considerations.

SOCCER

MLS

PORTLAND TIMBERS — Named Trevor Jones and Amos Magee assistant coaches, Adam Smith goalkeeper coach, Nik Wald trainer and Karim Derqaoui strength and conditioning coach.

NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

EAST	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	10	2	0	.833	379	269
N.Y. Jets	9	3	0	.750	267	232
Miami	6	6	0	.500	215	238
Buffalo	2	10	0	.167	243	333
SOUTH						
Jacksonville	7	5	0	.583	257	300
Indianapolis	6	6	0	.500	317	290
Houston	5	7	0	.417	288	321
Tennessee	5	7	0	.417	263	235
NORTH						
Pittsburgh	9	3	0	.750	267	191
Baltimore	8	4	0	.667	260	201
Cleveland	5	7	0	.417	229	239
Cincinnati	2	10	0	.167	255	322
WEST						
Kansas City	8	4	0	.667	295	237
Oakland	6	6	0	.500	283	269
San Diego	6	6	0	.500	323	253
Denver	3	9	0	.250	256	333

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

EAST	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
N.Y. Giants	8	4	0	.667	308	247
Philadelphia	8	4	0	.667	344	281
Washington	5	7	0	.417	222	293
Dallas	4	8	0	.333	294	336
SOUTH						
Atlanta	10	2	0	.833	304	233
New Orleans	9	3	0	.750	299	227
Tampa Bay	7	5	0	.583	243	251
Carolina	1	11	0	.083	154	307
NORTH						
Chicago	9	3	0	.750	246	192
Green Bay	8	4	0	.667	303	182
Minnesota	5	7	0	.417	227	253
Detroit	2	10	0	.167	278	306
WEST						
Seattle	6	6	0	.500	240	289
St. Louis	6	6	0	.500	232	237
San Francisco	4	8	0	.333	203	259
Arizona	3	9	0	.250	200	338

WEEK 13

Monday's result
New England 45 N.Y. Jets 3

WEEK 14

Tomorrow's game
(All times Eastern)
Indianapolis at Tennessee, 8:20 p.m.
Sunday's games
N.Y. Giants at Minnesota, 1 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Washington, 1 p.m.
Cleveland at Buffalo, 1 p.m.
Green Bay at Detroit, 1 p.m.
Oakland at Jacksonville, 1 p.m.
Cincinnati at Pittsburgh, 1 p.m.
Atlanta at Carolina, 1 p.m.
Seattle at San Francisco, 4:05 p.m.
St. Louis at New Orleans, 4:05 p.m.
Kansas City at San Diego, 4:15 p.m.
Denver at Arizona, 4:15 p.m.
New England at Chicago, 4:15 p.m.
Miami at N.Y. Jets, 4:15 p.m.
Philadelphia at Dallas, 8:20 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 13
Baltimore at Houston, 8:30 p.m.

FOOTBALL

NCAA

All Times Eastern
Saturday, Dec. 18

NEW MEXICO BOWL

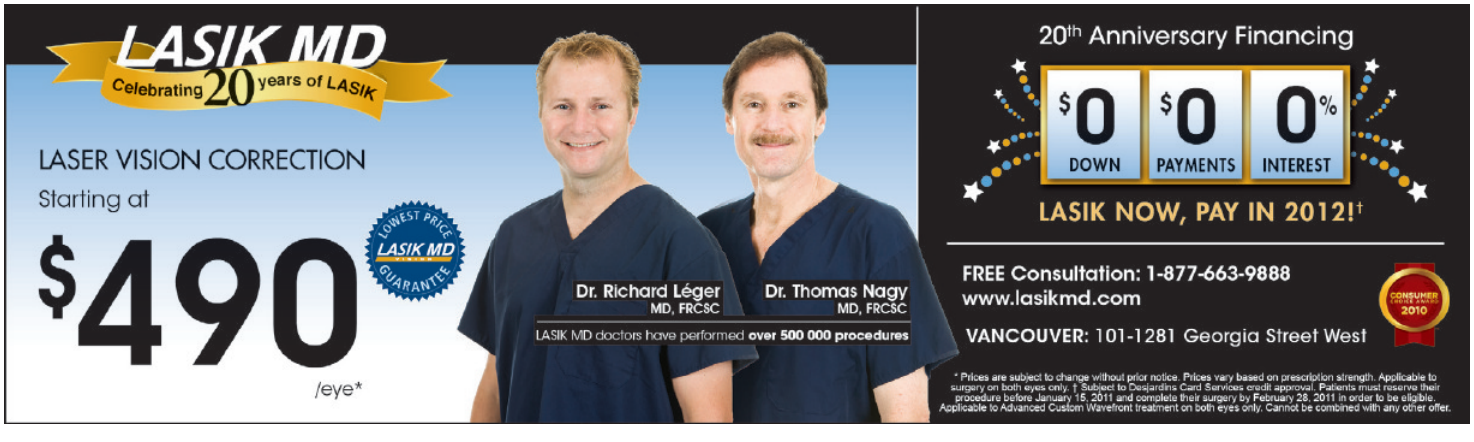
At Albuquerque, N.M.
Texas-El Paso (6-6) vs. Brigham Young (6-6), 2 p.m.

HUMANITARIAN BOWL

At Boise, Idaho
Northern Illinois (10-3) vs. Fresno State (8-4), 5:30 p.m.

NEW ORLEANS BOWL

Ohio (8-4) vs. Troy (7-5), 9 p.m.



5 drive

By comparison

Toyota Sienna
Base price: $29,600
Updated 2011 minivan the only one to offer AWD and base four-cylinder engine.

Dodge Grand Caravan
Base price: $28,850
Chrysler needs to hustle to keep up with the newly updated minivans.

Nissan Quest
Base price: $29,000
All-new and more stylish edition set for launch in early 2011.

WHEELBASE MEDIA

Scan code for more car reviews and news

Once considered a dying breed, the minivan is making a comeback
Honda's 2011 Odyssey is designed to drive like a European touring sedan; not just on gridded city streets

If you can't get your groceries into this rig, there's something seriously wrong. Giant doors and giant openings are part of the Odyssey's charm even if the "lightning bolt" body line just isn't doing it for you.

A minivan that's not just for soccer moms

MALCOLM GUNN
DRIVE@METRONEWS.CA
WHEELBASE MEDIA

With the sound of tires squealing and the aroma of freshly cooked rubber and brake linings hanging in the air, I quickly realize that no minivan will ever be driven this way. Ever.

Where is Honda's logic in setting up an impromptu parking-lot race track to drive the wheels off ... a minivan?

The point, though, is that a minivan can actually drive like a European touring sedan and not just in a straight line on gridded city streets. It's a good distinction from stereotypical minivans, especially when stereotypical minivans aren't really selling.

Minivan sales in North America peaked a few years ago before taking a dive. They have remained fairly stagnant of late, causing some automakers, notably General Motors and Ford, to abandon the category. Of those remaining, however, Toyota and Nissan appear to be taking radical styling departures in what has traditionally been a category of bread-and-butter toaster-shaped vehicles. So is Honda.

There's enough room for seven people and plenty of seating variations.

The Odyssey is differentiated by an unusual hitch in the bodywork behind the sliding side doors. Honda calls it a "lightning bolt" effect that's supposed to increase third-row passenger visibility. That might be true, but from certain angles it's as if the rear third of the Odyssey's body is misaligned with the front two-thirds.

Fortunately the sharp-looking grille, the neatly tapered rear roof pillar and the more pronounced front fenders help make the Odyssey's wider (by 3.5 centimetres) stance look planted and even aggressive.

The distance between the front and rear wheels remains unaltered from the 2010 model, but overall length has been modestly increased and the ride height is a bit lower.

Significant attention has been expended in upgrading Odyssey's interior. The floor console can be removed, the second-row high-back bucket seats (or available three-person bench) can be either folded or removed and the third-row seat can be collapsed into the load floor more easily to maximize cargo room.

The Odyssey's 3.5-litre V6 is mostly a carryover piece but, as a result of numerous small improvements, it has gained more horsepower (now 248) and a touch more torque. The engine's standard variable cylinder management program seamlessly cuts out two or three of the cylinders (depending on load conditions) and helps contribute to significant fuel-economy gains.

The Odyssey drives flatter and truer than the outgoing version with much reduced body roll in the turns. Odyssey's engineers stayed with belt-driven hydraulic power steering and not electric, which generally tends to feel a bit slow to react in some driving situations.

No matter the Odyssey you pick, this minivan is bound to deliver the goods as well as a nearly unbeatable minivan driving experience that's definitely better than par for the (race) course.

The Odyssey

What you should know about the 2011 Odyssey

- **Type:** Four-door, front-wheel-drive minivan
- **Engines (hp):** 3.5-litre SOHC V6 (248)
- **Transmissions:** Five-speed automatic; six-speed automatic (optional)
- **Market Position:** Thought to be dying, the once moribund minivan segment is suddenly heating up. The latest Odyssey appears to have arrived just at the right time to capture what is predicted to be an upcoming sales bump.
- **Points:** Styling on fourth-generation model is a mix of mostly good, some iffy traits; Interior an ergonomic delight, save for non-flat-folding front passenger seat; Exceptionally smooth and quiet power train; Amazing that a minivan can handle and ride this well.
- **Safety:** Front airbags; side-impact airbags; side-curtain airbags; anti-lock brakes; traction control; stability control.
- **Stats:** L/100 km (city/hwy) 10.9/7.1 (6AT); Base price (including destination) $31,600

LOOK WHAT JUST ROLLED IN

INTRODUCING SCION.

The new family of Scion cars are made for self-expression, and with 75 ways to personalize them, the next step is yours. Every Scion comes loaded with a Pioneer Sound System featuring Bluetooth® & USB integration, A/C and the STAR Safety System™.

xD

Loaded from $17,200

• Standard Star Safety System™

xB

Loaded from $18,270

• Standard Power Group

tC

Loaded from $20,850

• Standard Panoramic Moonroof and 18" Alloy Wheels

THE 2011 SCION xD, xB, tC

SCIONNATION.CA

MSRP does not include freight and PDI ($1390), license, insurance, registration, applicable taxes, levies and fees. xD/xB/tC vehicles shown with optional installed accessories starting from $18,920/$22,740/$21,527. Because the cost of doing business varies, the installation portion of the price may not be the exact cost of installation at a dealership. Please confirm accessory pricing with your Scion or Toyota dealership. Tires not included on accessory wheels. Dealer may sell for less.

scion

what moves you

THIS YEAR'S AUTOMOTIVE CHRISTMAS WISH LIST

Auto Pilot

MIKE GOETZ
DRIVE@METROEWS.CA

▶ The Cadillac CTS-V Wagon — possibly the coolest station wagon ever built.

It's the most wonderful time of the year, or so they say. To me, Christmas has always had an aura of the "curate's egg."

In that famous Punch cartoon, a bishop and his subordinate (a curate) are having breakfast. The bishop says, "I'm afraid you've got a bad egg, Mr. Jones." The curate replies, "Oh, no my Lord, I assure you that parts of it are excellent."

We'll leave it up to you whether you embody the curate's delusionary good cheer this season, or just write the whole thing off as a bad egg.

Truth to be told, I actually look forward to one Christmas ritual — making a list. Making a list when the numbers are stacked against you actually appeals to the fatalist in me.

Anyway, here is my Christmas wish list…

Santa, could you see about getting us some longer hoses on the gas pumps? When the stations are busy, it gets really stressful when everyone must jockey for position to get a pump that matches the side of the car with the fuel filler.

Can't pumps have long enough hoses so it wouldn't matter which pump came available first? Would it kill them to give us a few more feet of rubber hose?

Or maybe you could look into making those new electronic parking metres be a little more polite? Often times you can hardly get your credit card in because it's so tight.

Then as soon as you do, the display starts yelling at you to REMOVE YOUR CARD. If you swipe it as quickly as they seem to request, it doesn't usually work, and admonishes you with a CANNOT READ CARD. They're really grumpy.

I'm only putting one car on my list — the Cadillac CTS-V Wagon — because I don't want to look too greedy. The 566-hp $70,000-plus Cadi just might be the coolest station wagon every built.

If I can't get the Cadi, how about a new set of wheels for my old Jaguar? The wire wheels still look great, but I always had a thing for the Dunlop solid discs used by Jaguar's racing cars back in the day. Decent replica versions are just $800 a piece.

If I can't get the wheels, how about another IPod, maybe the 64GB version ($429 at the Apple Store, free shipping)? With two, I could leave one hooked up permanently to the car stereo.

If I can't get the IPod, how about a year's subscription to satellite radio (under $200)?

A case of synthetic oil wouldn't even be $75 (when it's on sale).

A $9.99 ice scrapper/brush at Canadian Tire?

You know what Santa? A lump of coal would be fine. Merry Christmas.

Korean sedan a good family car

SECOND GEAR

JUSTIN PRITCHARD
DRIVE@METRONEWS.CA

If any car had the potential to change the public's perception of the Hyundai brand in the modern era, it was the last-generation Sonata.

Available from 2006 to 2010, the Korean automaker's bread-and-butter family sedan was packed with the engineering, quality and styling needed to give the big boys from Japan a run for their money.

In the used marketplace, Sonata's Korean roots and relatively short history as a family sedan contender mean that resale values will be relatively low compared to those of Japanese competitors.

If you're looking for a good deal on a used family car, the last-generation Sonata may be a great place to start — especially considering that it seems to have fared well where reliability is concerned.

Standard was a 2.4-litre four-cylinder engine with 162 horsepower and five-speed manual transmission. A manual-mode automatic was available.

History/Description

Shoppers in the used market will find entry-level Sonata models labeled with a GL badge, while GL V6, GLS and GLS V6 models filled out the model range. Sonata Sport and limited models were available in later years as well.

Available features included a power glass sunroof, 17-inch wheels, stability control, automatic climate control, an Infinity CD-changer audio system, remote access and power leather seats.

What Owners Like

Owners commonly praise the vehicle's styling, roominess, massive trunk, comfort levels and overall refinement. The V6 engine is a favourite with performance buffs, who say they enjoy the available power and acceleration. Long-haul comfort is rated highly too, as is fuel mileage with the four-cylinder engine.

What Owners Hate

Complaints include interior squeaks and rattles, some low-budget interior trim pieces, the lack of lighting on certain controls at night, and premature brake wear — though the latter is largely subject to the individual driving style and locale at play.

Common Issues

▶ Hyundai Sonata

Noteworthy is mixed sentiment between two comfort-related aspects of the Sonata: the seats and the ride quality.

Some owners rave about comfort levels related to both, while others complain of stiff, uncomfortable seats and a noisy and harsh ride. Take a lengthy test drive to ensure you feel comfortable.

In this writer's standard checks of numerous online forums and websites, no major, systematic or worrisome issues were found to be reported by large numbers of owners. Drivelines and major systems all look to be solid and dependable.

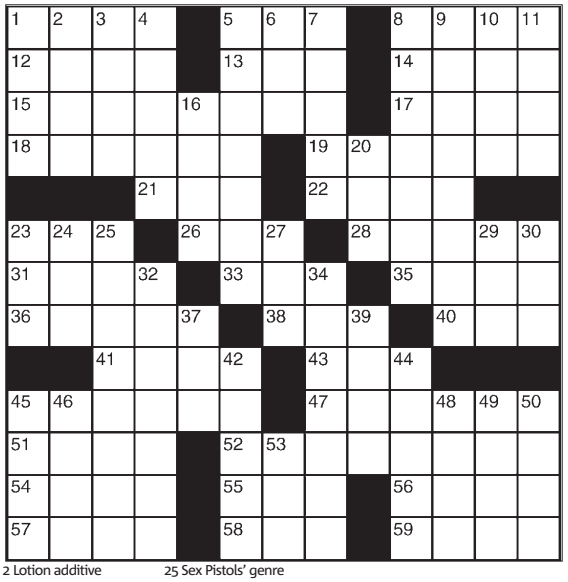
Regardless, the Sonata is a machine made of components that will eventually wear out and break. As such, a check-over for tire wear, brake system condition, clutch wear (if applicable) and the condition of the vehicle's suspension is advised. Be sure the former owner was fond of changing their Sonata's oil on time, and budget for a full fluid change and tune-up if you're unsure of the vehicle's history.

The Verdict

If you're able to find a good deal on a last-generation Sonata that's well-maintained, you'll likely wind up with a reliable, enjoyable car. Best of all, you'll save a few bucks, too.

MINI
FULLY LOADED, PARTIALLY PRICED.
The 2011 Cooper Classic Limited Edition
Visit MINIrichmond.ca or Yaletown.MINI.ca for more details.

Crossword



Across
1 Leave when things get tough
5 Jewel
8 Campus lecturer, maybe
12 Radius neighbour
13 Floral garland
14 Theater box
15 Illinois city
17 Land measure
18 Try a case again
19 Where a plug goes
21 Tackle the slopes
22 Muscular development
23 Rock band's enhancer
26 Salamander
28 Follows orders
31 "Magical Mystery — "
33 Thee
35 Hodgepodge
36 King of Crete
38 Make a decision
40 CDs' forerunners
41 "South Park" kid
43 Year-end abbr.
45 Mediterranean eels
47 Gets more out of
51 "American —"
52 St. Patrick's Day emblem
54 Reference bk.
55 "— Wiedersehen"
56 Inter
57 Black
58 Still
59 Turn on a pivot

Down
1 Perry Mason portrayer
2 Lotion additive
3 About 2.54 centimeters
4 Erie and others, e.g.
5 Extol
6 Always, in verse
7 Central portion
8 Ersatz pill
9 "Saturday Evening Post" artist
10 Shrek, for one
11 Stocking stuffers?
16 Phony
20 Discoverer's cry
23 $ dispenser
24 Miss Piggy's pronoun
25 Sex Pistols' genre
27 Excessively
29 Shrill bark
30 "Mayday!"
32 Monarchs
34 Factor in Marilyn's "Seven Year Itch" pose
37 Crafty
39 Abound
42 English composition
44 Restrains
45 Skirt length
46 Valhalla VIP
48 Satan's purchase
49 Beige
50 Terrier type
53 Colouration

▶ Yesterday's answer

L	A	N	A		H	A	D		P	I	T	H
A	X	E	S		O	W	E		T	A	R	O
M	I	C	H	I	G	A	N		A	G	E	S
A	S	K		R	A	Y		B	R	O	K	E
			G	I	N		J	I	M			
A	T	L	A	S		L	A	Z	I	E	S	T
D	O	I	N		B	A	Y		G	A	I	N
D	O	D	G	E	R	S		D	A	U	N	T
			L	E	A		H	E	N			
C	A	V	I	L		M	A	W		M	E	N
O	R	E	O		G	A	N	Y	M	E	D	E
L	I	E	N		E	N	D		U	N	I	T
T	A	P	S		L	O	Y		G	U	T	S

Sudoku

2	8		7		5	4		1
		6		1		2	7	
				9	8			
3		4				6		9
			2	3				
	3	5		4		7		
9		8	5		6		3	2

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ▶

8	7	3	2	9	1	6	5	4
9	5	1	6	3	4	7	8	2
6	2	4	8	7	5	1	3	9
2	6	9	7	5	3	4	1	8
1	4	7	9	8	2	3	6	5
3	8	5	1	4	6	2	9	7
5	9	6	4	1	7	8	2	3
7	1	8	3	2	9	5	4	6
4	3	2	5	6	8	9	7	1

Send a KISS

Show some love! Send a note to somebody special at kiss@metronews.ca

David, I love your long beautiful hair. I love the way it glisten's in the sun and falls so softly on your face. You will always be my little Avatar..hopefully one day we can put our tails together.. for eternity! — Love Always,
YOUR WORK WIFE.

Tom, thank you for every little thing you do that means everything to me. I love you with all my heart.
RUTH

Happy two year anniversary Ito. I will love you until a cow jumps over the moon. From your **TUNA :)**
XO.

Dalia, I'm sorry about everything that has happened in the past, but I hope someday we can work past this. I love you always...
ALEISHA

Today 9°/6° Rain 90%
Thursday 8°/6° Rain 90%
The Weather Network
Download WeatherEye to your smartphone.
©The Weather Network 2010

Today's horoscope

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

♈ Aries March 21-April 20 There is no point trying to force other people to think or feel the way you do. That will only encourage them to dig in their heels and stick with what they already believe.

♉ Taurus April 21-May 21 Venus, your ruler, is currently moving through your opposite sign of Scorpio – and today is linked to Pluto, planet of passion. Therefore someone is sure to stir your emotions — but don't let them stir up a storm.

♊ Gemini May 22-June 21 Focus on the realities of your situation today. Wishful thinking may be fun but it does not pay the bills and it does not take you any closer to your goals. Have confidence in your abilities.

♋ Cancer June 22-July 22 It seems you can do no wrong at the moment. It seems that everything you touch works out better than anyone expected. Keep the momentum going.

♌ Leo July 23-Aug.23 If you go too far or too fast today you will find it very hard to stop and that could lead to all sorts of complications — and accidents. By all means have fun, by all means seek adventure, but be aware of the consequences too.

♍ Virgo Aug. 24- Sept. 22 Someone you meet while traveling or socializing will be a lot of fun, and there is at least an evens chance that your friendship could develop in a romantic direction.

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23 Your taste for luxuries could get you into trouble, especially if you have other financial obligations that should come first. The bills will have to be paid some time.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22 Make a point of talking nicely with someone you have clashed with in the past. You have much in common.

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21 You always go out of your way to help family and friends but today you will go even further and help someone you have no personal commitment to, simply because they need help and you are in a position to give it. You're such a nice guy.

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20 Pluto in your sign makes a positive link to values planet Venus today, which will encourage you to pursue goals that are beneficial not just for you personally but for other people as well.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18 Try not to be suspicious if someone in a position of authority suddenly starts treating you like their number one buddy.

♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20 This will be a productive day, but if you really want to accomplish something spectacular you must make a point of working with other people. Don't try to do it all on your own.

SALLY BROMPTON

Caption contest

MARCO UGARTE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Las Vegas
Air + 3 Nights + 3-Night Cruise from $649 + taxes & fees $102
INCLUDES air to Las Vegas with 3 nights accom on The Strip, air to L.A. and 3-night cruise from L.A. to Vancouver.

Family Vacations

Big White
Christmas Family Special
3 Nights
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INCLUDES accom in the heart of Sun Peaks Ski Resort. Price per person based on family of 4.

Victoria Christmas Family Special
3 Nights from $119◊ taxes & fees included
INCLUDES 4-star accom close to Victoria's Inner Harbour over the Christmas holiday weekend. Price per person based on family of 4.

Orlando Family Special
Air + 7 Nights from $399◊ + taxes & fees $119
INCLUDES accom close to theme parks. Price per person based on family of 4.

Honolulu March Break Family Special
Air + 7 Nights from $999◊ + taxes & fees $101
INCLUDES accom in Waikiki beach area. **ADD** Hoku Nai'a Snorkel and Dolphin watch from $118 adult / $76 child.

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Valentine's Weekend
Air + 3 Nights
from **$359** + taxes & fees $96
INCLUDES accom in the heart of the theatre district. **ADD** wine country tour from $69.

Quebec City Winter Carnival Special
Air + 3 Nights from $599 + taxes & fees $172
INCLUDES 4-star accom in Quebec City during the 57th Winter Carnival.

Honolulu March Break Family Special
Air + 7 Nights from $999◊ + taxes & fees $101
INCLUDES accom close to Waikiki Beach. Price per person based on family of 4. **ADD** Hoku Nai'a Snorkel and Dolphin watch from $118 per adult, $76 per child.

Hong Kong Chinese New Year
Air + 5 Nights 4.5-Star from $1149 + taxes & fees $313
INCLUDES accom on Hong Kong island.

USA

Las Vegas
Air from Bellingham + 3 Nights
from **$159** + taxes & fees $37
INCLUDES accom on the Strip. **UPGRADE** to 5-star accom from $36 per night.

Phoenix Air + 3 Nights from $619 + taxes & fees $102
INCLUDES 4-star accom with access to Lookout Mountain Golf Club. **ADD** Phoenix Valley area tour from $64.

Miami Air + 4 Nights from $699 + taxes & fees $107
INCLUDES accom in the heart of South Beach. **ADD** 1-day Miami Sightseeing Hop On, Hop Off pass from $54.

New York Air + 3 Nights from $749 + taxes & fees $132
INCLUDES midtown Manhattan accom. **ADD** All Loops double decker tour from $59.

Vacations

Buenos Aires
Air + 7 Nights 4-Star
from **$1359** + taxes & fees $319
INCLUDES central accom close to Obelisk.

Singapore & Bintan Island Air + 8 Nights 4-Star + Ferry + Tour from $1359 + taxes & fees $207
INCLUDES 3 nights Singapore accom, 5 nights Bintan Island accom and roundtrip ferry service. **BONUS** Singapore night tour included.

Vietnam Air + 13 Nights from $1459 + taxes & fees $375
INCLUDES air, 11 nights resort accom in Nha Trang and 2 nights in Ho Chi Minh City.

Manila & Boracay
Air + 8 Nights 4-Star from $1499 + taxes & fees $259
INCLUDES 2 nights Manila accom and 6 nights Boracay accom. **BONUS** Caticlan Airport to Boracay Resort transfers included. **ADD** airfare from Manila to Boracay from $275.

Australia
Air + 14 Nights 4-Star from $1879 + taxes & fees $454
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